FINAL
DREGS

LEGENDS OF THE DARK CRYSTAL EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW INSIDE!

UNDERTOWN

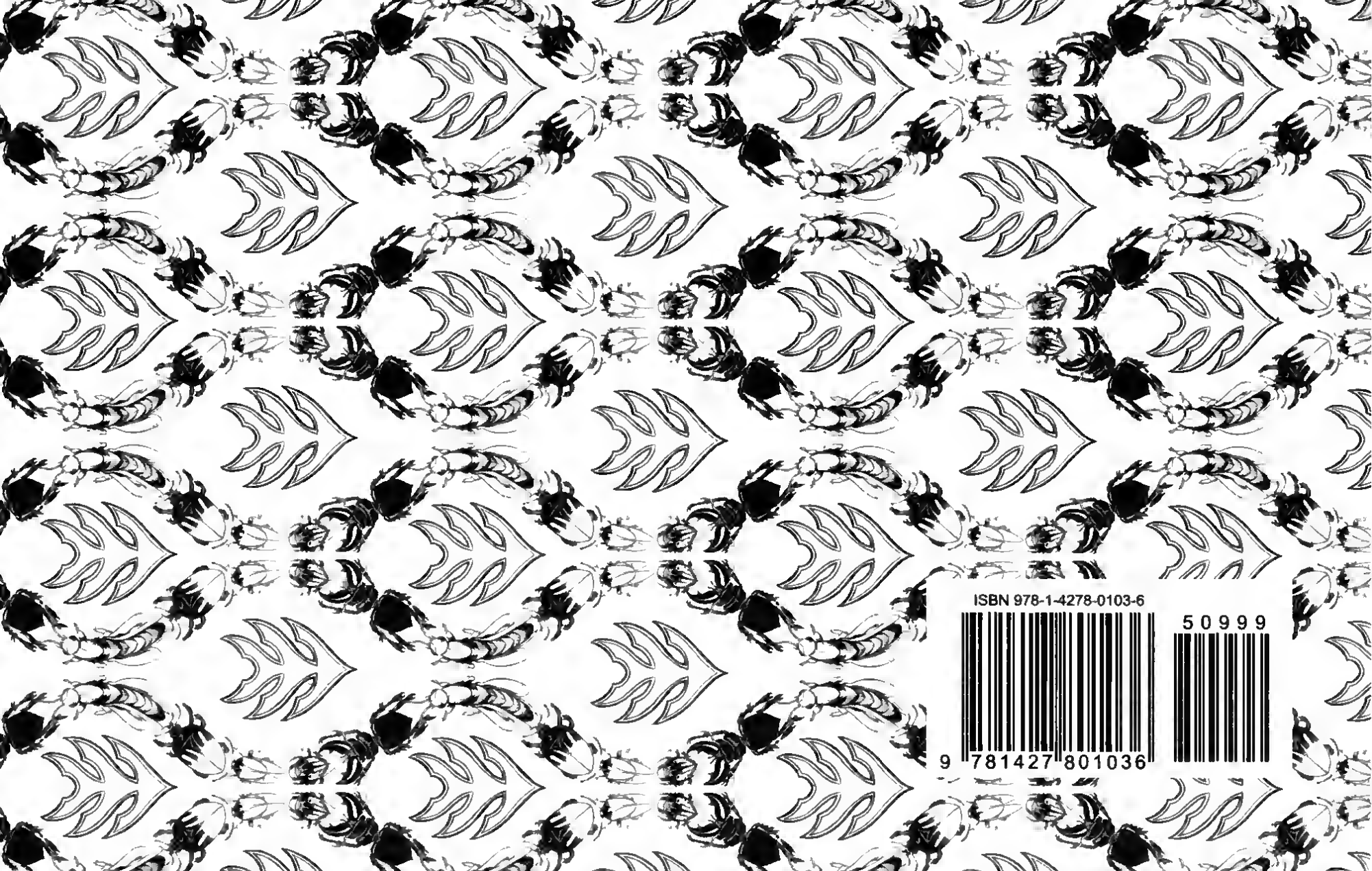
TOKYOPOP

UNDERTOWN

JIM PASCOE
JAKE MYLER

1

JIM PASCOE 1 JAKE MYLER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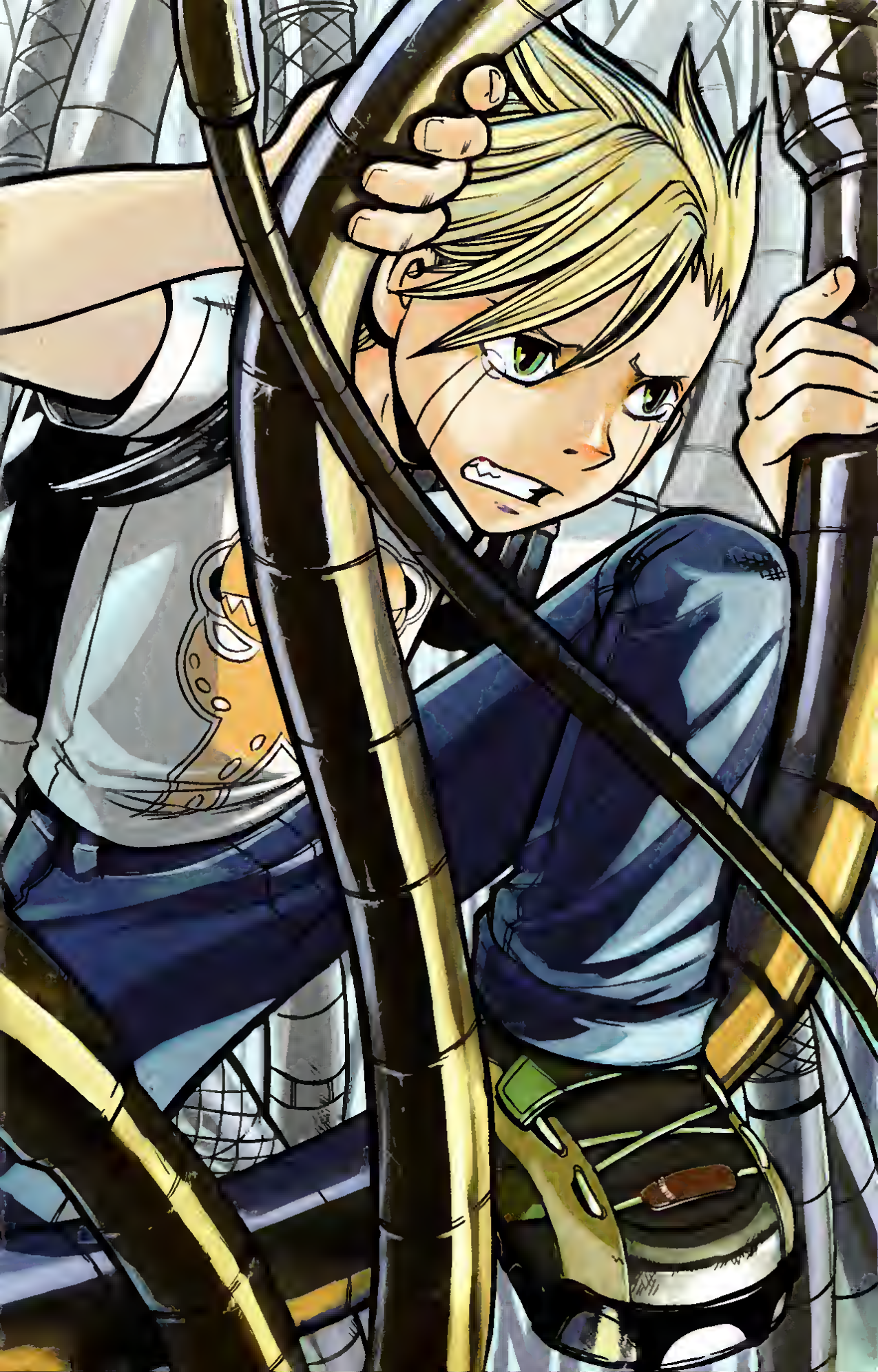
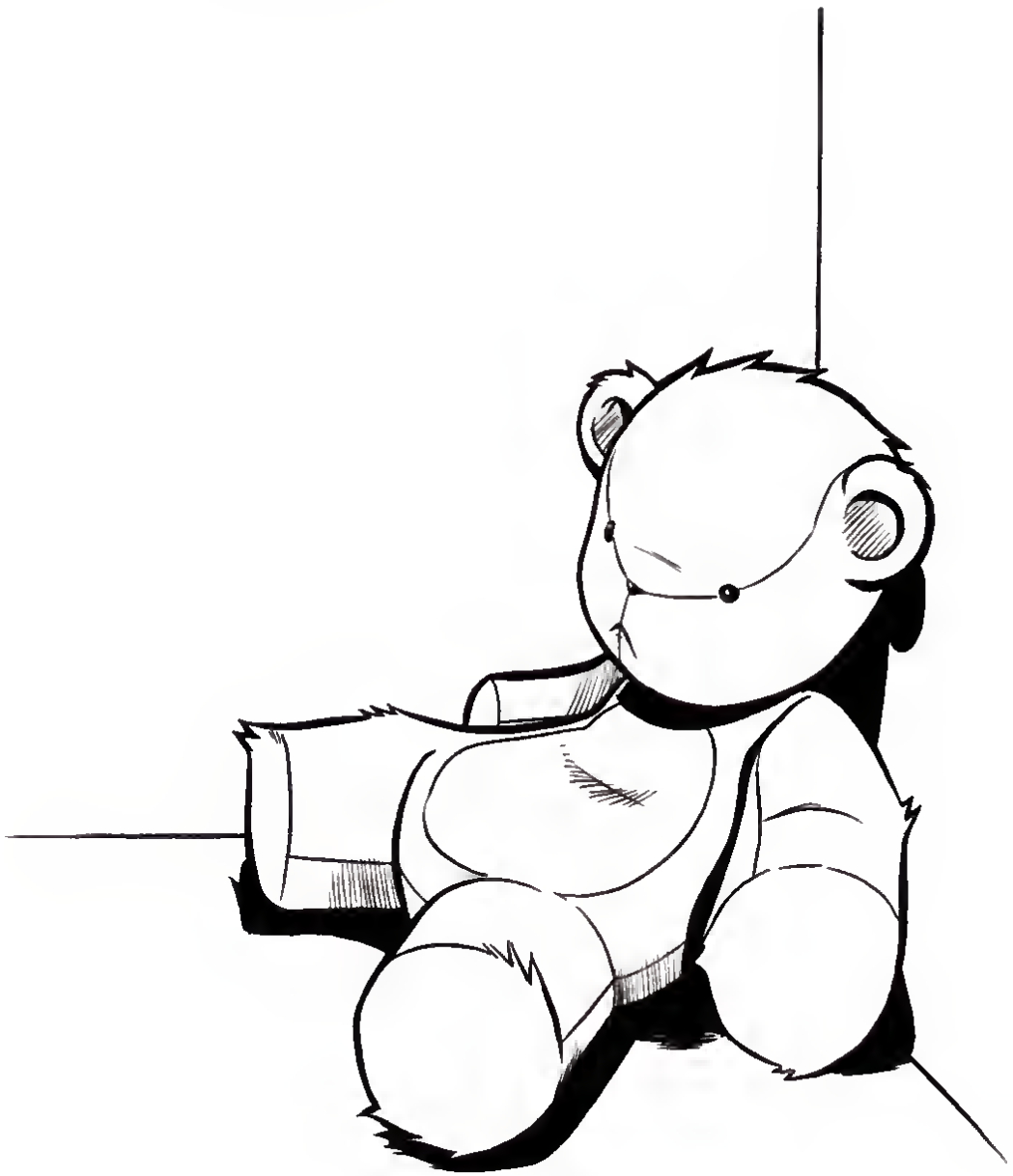


This book is dedicated to my dad.
--JPP



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UNDERTOWN

VOLUME 1

Written By Jim Pascoe
Illustrated by Jake Myler

THE BUTTERFLY TREE
THE BIRD RIDGE
THE GHOST GROVE
THE DUNE CAVES
WEST BANK
EAST BANK
THE SUGAR FACTORY
SWAMPS
THE CRYING RIVER
THE DIRTIEST JUNKYARD
THE SUBWAY STATION
SWAMPS
THE WEST WATERS
PLAINS
THE SAND SEA

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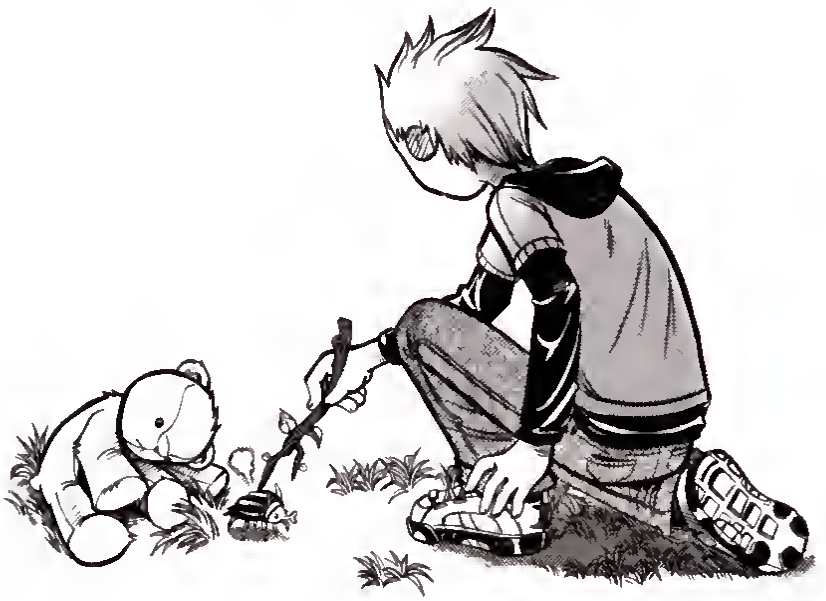

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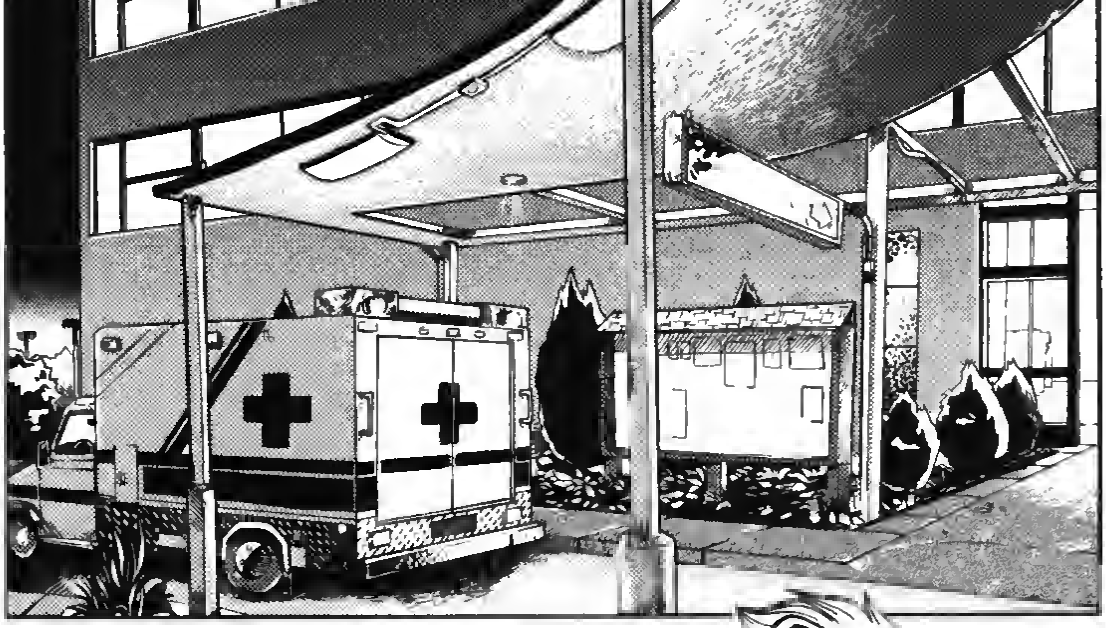
SAMA! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO YELL AT YOU ABOUT PLAYING WITH MY MEDALS? THEY ARE NOT TOYS! WHY WON'T YOU EVER DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD?
DON'T BE SO HARD ON HIM. LOOK AT YOU.
THERE'S NO REASON TO GET SO FLUSTERED.
I KNOW, I KNOW. HE JUST HAS TO LEARN.
ARE YOU CRYING? DO I HEAR YOU CRYING AGAIN?
ARE YOU A BOY OR A BABY?
ONE OF THESE DAYS--



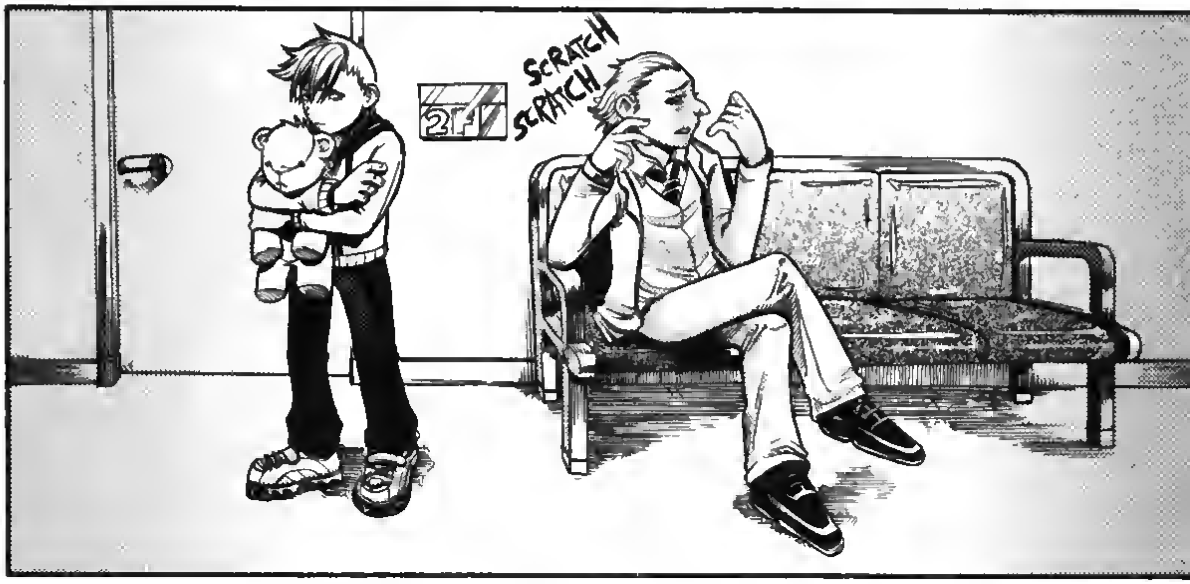
THAT'S ALL WE KNOW.
I... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE MEANS. ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL ME?
WE'LL RUN TESTS. I DON'T WANT TO SAY MUCH BEFORE--
WE'LL KNOW MORE IN A COUPLE DAYS.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR.
WHAT'S HAPPENING, EDDIE?
PLOK
IT'S NOT FAIR. NOTHING MAKES ANY SENSE ANYMORE. I WANT TO HELP.
THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL--NOBODY TELLING YOU WHAT'S WHAT. EVERYBODY TRYING TO PROTECT YOU, WHEN IT'S YOUR DAD--
COUGH
=COUGH= --WHO NEEDS THE HELP.
YEAH.
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE HIDING BEHIND YOUR BACK. NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF...
...EVEN FOR AN *OLDER BOY* LIKE YOURSELF.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
HIDE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M TALKING TEDDY BEARS. =COUGH= AND YOU... HELPING YOUR DAD.
CLUTCH

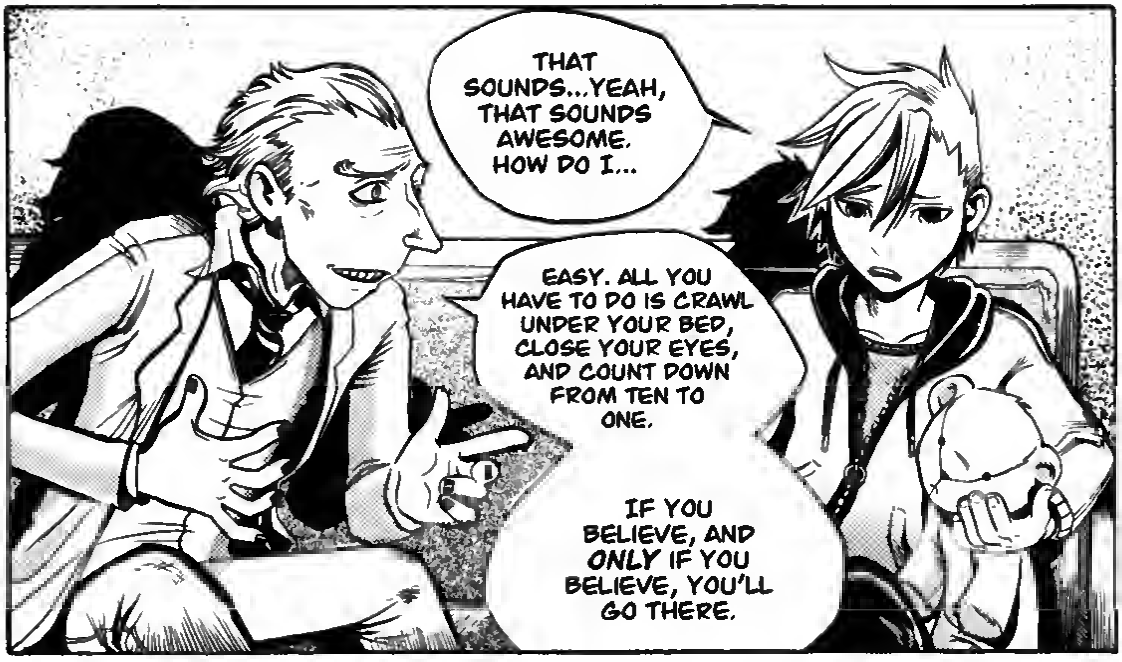
YOU MUST THINK I'M JUST OLD... TOO OLD TO PLAY WITH TEDDY BEARS. =COUGH= BUT I LOVE THEM.
=COUGH= I WAS IN A SITUATION MUCH LIKE YOURS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

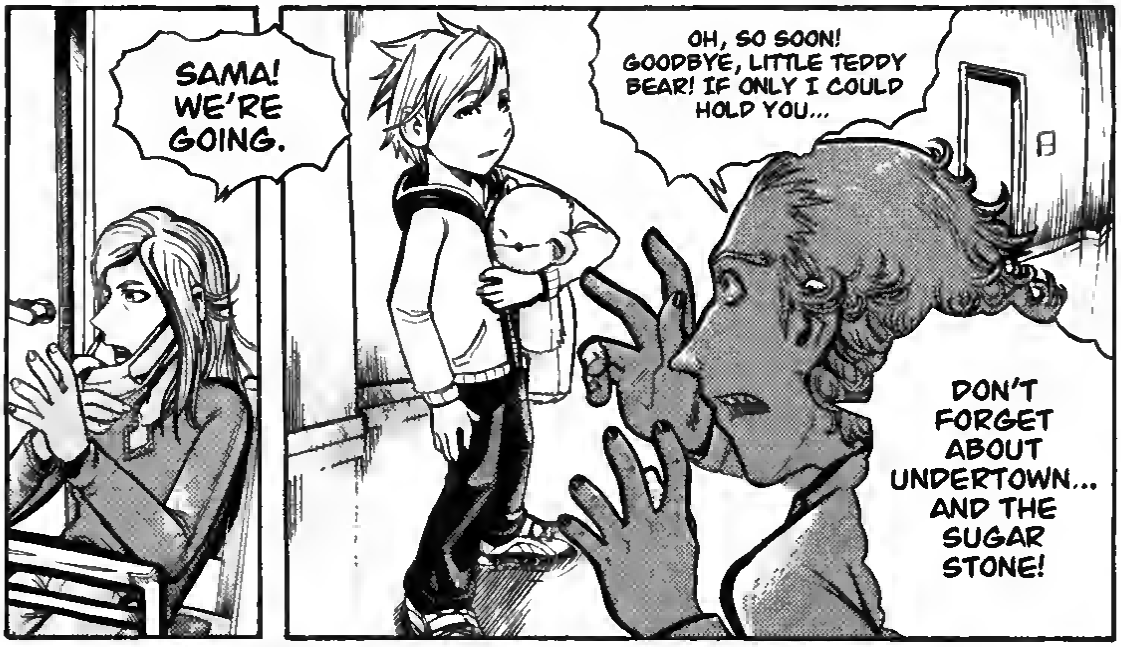
WHAT DID YOU DO?
I FOUND THE SUGAR STONE. IT CAN CURE ANYBODY, MAKE THEM GOOD AS NEW.

THAT SOUNDS DUMB.
SCRATCH
THEN I WON'T TELL YOU WHERE I FOUND IT.

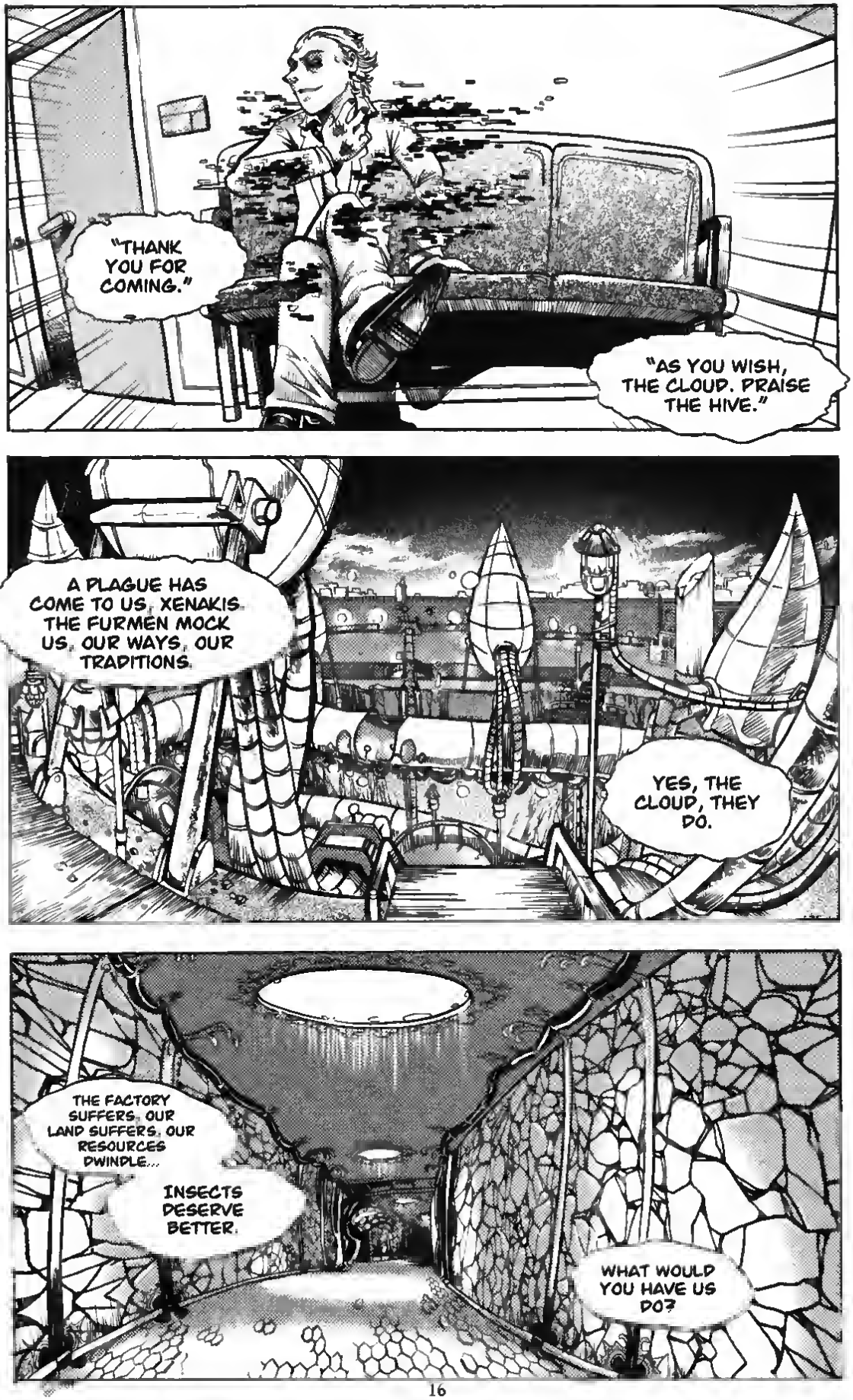

SCRATCH SCRATCH

GUESS IT COULDN'T HURT IF YOU TOLD ME, YOU KNOW, JUST IN CASE.
HA! VERY WELL!
FIRST, LET ME SEE YOUR TEDDY BEAR... JUST A QUICK LITTLE LOOK!
YES, YES, YES.
SO SWEET.
THE SUGAR STONE IS IN A PLACE CALLED UNDERTOWN. IT'S WHERE TEDDY BEARS COME FROM.
"I remember being there as a little boy."
"Everyone is so friendly. No one cries. Some say it's the happiest place."


THAT SOUNDS...YEAH, THAT SOUNDS AWESOME. HOW DO I...
EASY. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CRAWL UNDER YOUR BED, CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND COUNT DOWN FROM TEN TO ONE.
IF YOU BELIEVE, AND *ONLY* IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU'LL GO THERE.


SAMA! WE'RE GOING.
OH, SO SOON! GOODBYE, LITTLE TEDDY BEAR! IF ONLY I COULD HOLD YOU...
DON'T FORGET ABOUT UNDERTOWN... AND THE SUGAR STONE!

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH


"THANK YOU FOR COMING."
"AS YOU WISH, THE CLOUD. PRAISE THE HIVE."
A PLAGUE HAS COME TO US, XENAKIS. THE FURMEN MOCK US, OUR WAYS, OUR TRADITIONS.
YES, THE CLOUD, THEY DO.
THE FACTORY SUFFERS. OUR LAND SUFFERS. OUR RESOURCES DWINDLE...
INSECTS DESERVE BETTER.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

ALREADY MANY CELLS ARE ACTIVE. THE FURMEN ARE C-C-CONFUSED. AND WE HAVE... A PRISONER!
BUT... WE NEED MORE.
YOUR INSURGENTS HAVE DONE WELL. I'LL DEAL WITH THE PRISONER ONCE HE IS AWAKE.
BRING ME THE SUGAR STONE. FIND IT... AT ANY COST, AND BRING IT HERE... TO ME.
PRAISE THE HIVE.
PRAISE THE HIVE!

INSECT!
OctoPod
WIN
HOW LONG DOES DAD HAVE TO BE IN THE HOSPITAL?
HOPEFULLY NOT TOO LONG, HONEY. THEY JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE HE'S ALL RIGHT.
IS HE STILL MAD AT ME?
DON'T BE SILLY, SAMA. HE'S NOT MAD.
RRING66
GO ON, NOW. LIGHTS OUT. I WANT YOU ASLEEP WHEN I GET OFF THE PHONE.
RRING
CREAK
GLANCE

TP
TP
TP
TP
TP
TP
...OH GOD... I DON'T UNDERSTAND. A TRANSPLANT? YOU SAID--
OKAY, BUT... A MONTH? THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO...
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T SAY YOU'RE GIVING UP. IT'S YOUR TONE OF VOICE THAT'S UPSETTING ME, DOCTOR.
SOB

IT'S ALL MY FAULT. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED AND NOT PLAYED WITH HIS MEDALS.
MY DAD IS SICK, EDDIE. I HAVE TO ACT LIKE A BIG KID NOW.
I CAN'T HELP IT IF I CRY! I'LL TRY HARDER NOT TO.
YOU'LL HELP ME, WON'T YOU?
WE WON'T BE GONE LONG. JUST GET THE SUGAR STONE AND COME RIGHT BACK.
PROMISE.

RUSSLE
TEN...
NINE...
EIGHT...
SEVEN...
SIX...
FIVE...
FOUR...
THREE...
TWO...
ONE...

ZIIP!
YIP!
TWIIP
YIP!
KVZIIP!

INTRUDER! SPEAK-K-K! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
DOOM
NO QUESTIONS, IKEDA-- C-C-CUT IT OPEN SO WE C-C-CAN DRINK-K-K.

HUH?
WAAAH!
HAK-
HAK-
HAK-
HAK!
IT'S FUNNY!
IS THIS... UNDERTOWN?

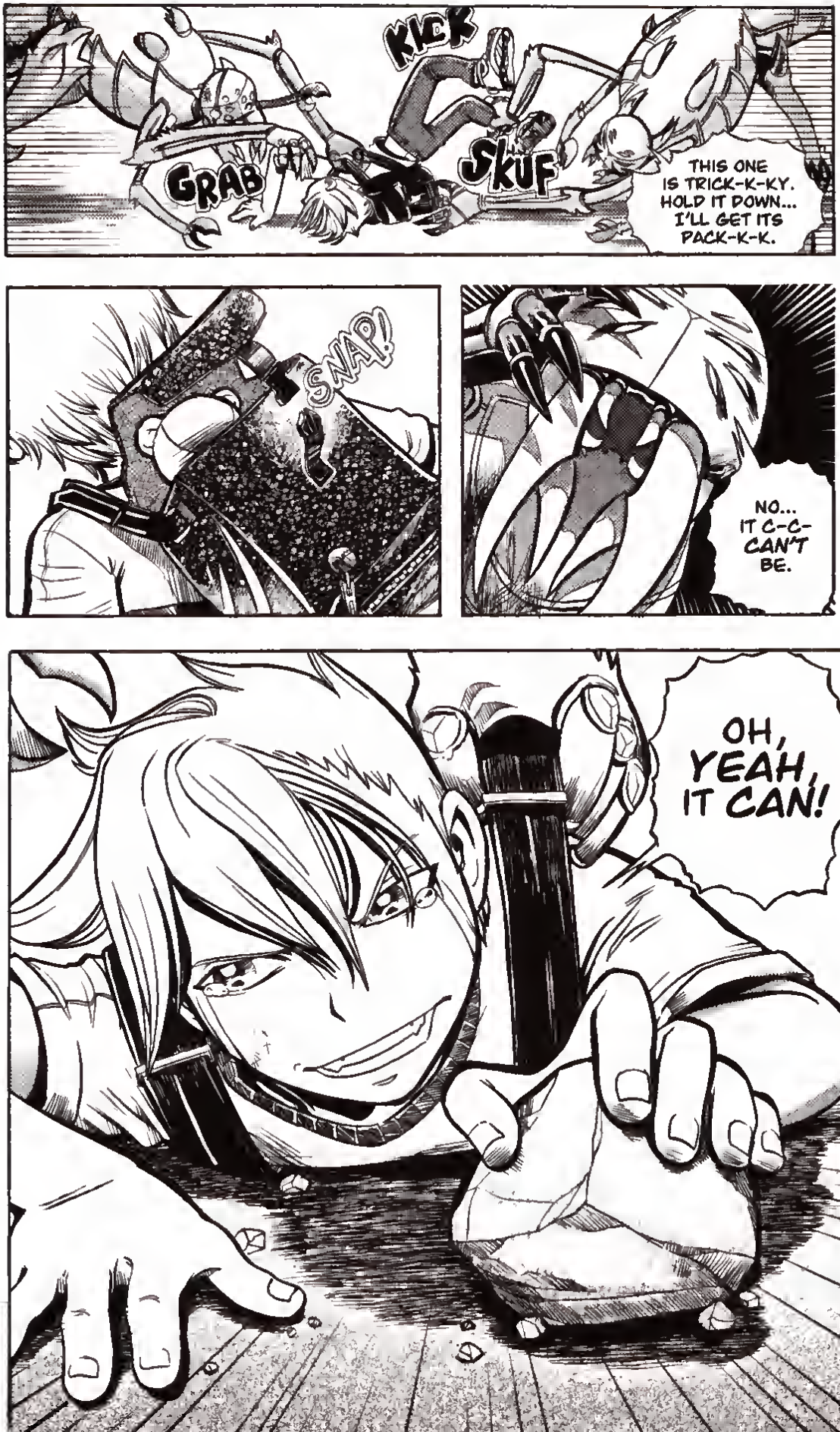
IS UNDERTOWN WHERE YOU WANT TO BE?
I DON'T KNOW. I THINK SO.
I'M LOOKING FOR HELP. MY DAD NEEDS HELP.
THWAK
IS "DAD" MORE OF YOU? YUM! BRING IT HERE. WE HAVE MANY BROTHERS WHO C-C-CAN FEED ON YOUR FLESH.
EYVIND! C-C-CONTROL YOURSELF! INTERROGATION MUST C-C-CONTINUE.
KRA

TO IP IP P
SLAM
YOU SPEAK-K-K OF HELP. ARE YOU HELPING THE FURMEN?
SLAM
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM!
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A HAPPY, FRIENDLY PLACE. I WAS SUPPOSED TO FIND THE SUGAR STONE AND THEN EVERYTHING WOULD--

OUCH!
STAB!
WHERE IS THE SUGAR STONE?

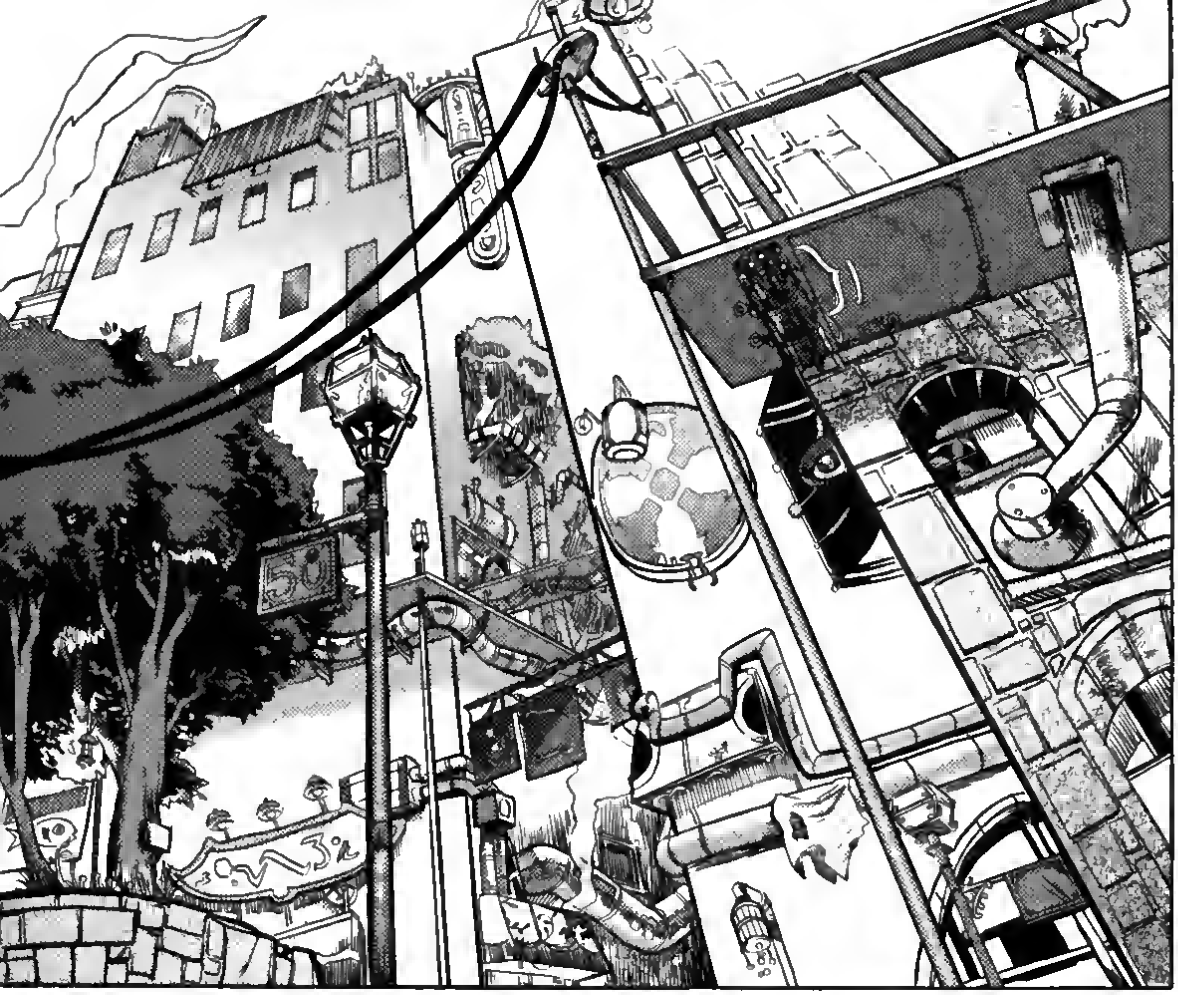
SLAM
I DON'T KNOW! I'M LOOKING FOR IT!
C-C-CUT IT OPEN!
WE C-C-CAN'T EAT IT NOW.
THE C-C-CLOUD WANTS THE STONE. SEARCH ITS PACK-K-K!
STOMP
NO!

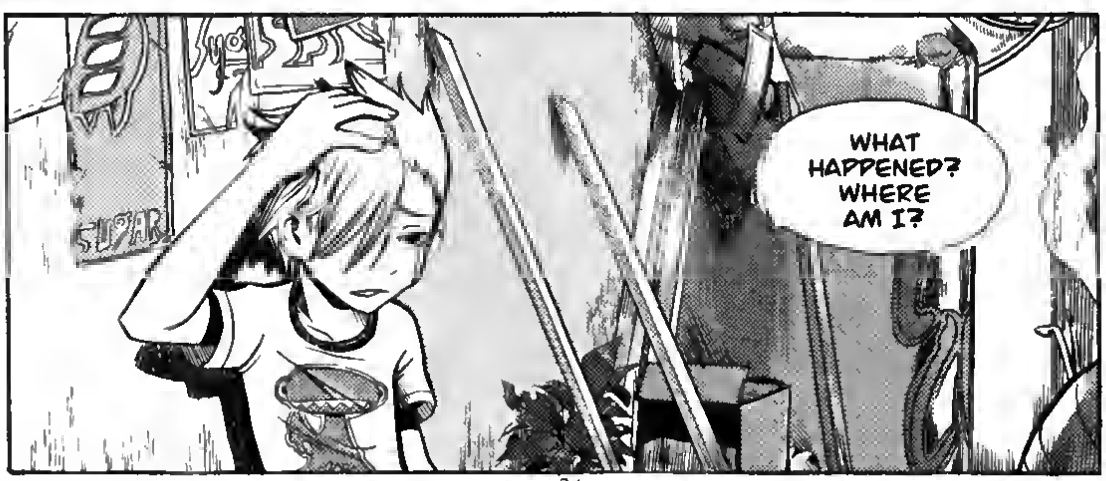
Hey!
SLAM
OOOOF!
STUPID EYVIND!
REACH!


GRAB
KICK
SKUF
THIS ONE IS TRICK-K-KY. HOLD IT DOWN... I'LL GET ITS PACK-K-K.
SNAP!
NO... IT C-C-CAN'T BE.
OH, YEAH, IT CAN!

KRAK
SMASH
PLOK
SHRIK
KE-
KE-KE-
KE!

THPP
SAMA... CLOSE YOUR EYES...
IT C-C-COMES FROM ABOVE! WE MUST C-C-CAPTURE IT AND TAKE-K-K IT TO THE C-C-CLOUD!




WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?

WHAT? WHERE AM I?
AWAKE AT LAST. BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL BE ASKING THE QUESTIONS.
ACTUALLY, IT'S ONLY ONE. AND I'LL ASK YOU ONLY ONCE.
WHERE IS THE SUGAR STONE?

Pssssshsss
Hoo
THE SUGAR STONE IS A MYTH. YOU'RE FOOLISH TO WANT IT.
FOOLISH IS YOU FURMEN THINKING YOU STILL HAVE A CLAIM ON THE SUGAR FACTORY NOW THAT IT'S UNDER INSECT OCCUPATION.
THE WAR IS OVER!
IT'S DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT. BUT ACCEPT IT, YOU MUST.
SUGAR IS A NATURAL PART OF INSECT CULTURE, AND THE SUGAR STONE IS OURS BY RIGHT. WE HAVE THE FACTORY. WE WILL HAVE THE STONE.
Bzzz
CONTROL OF UNDERTOWN WILL SOON BE OURS AND OURS ALONE!
CRACK

IF ONLY THAT WAS ALL YOU WANTED...
BWAHH!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW? WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD?
I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE SUGAR STONE...BUT I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT WHAT IT DOES. I CAN TELL YOU THIS...

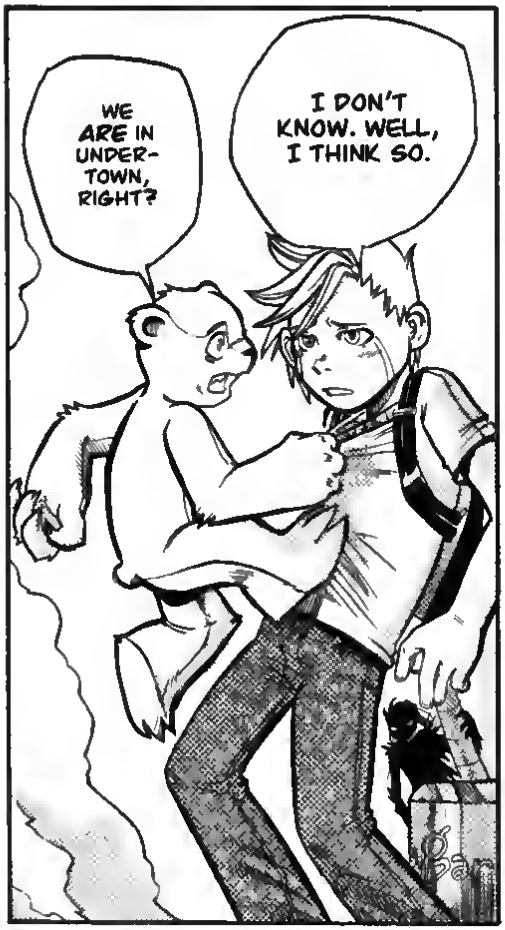
...IF IT DOES EXIST, I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO KEEP IT AWAY FROM YOU AND YOUR KIND.
YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING. YOU'LL BE DEAD.

GLANCE
GULP
IT'S LIKE I BLACKED OUT OR SOMETHING. I DON'T REMEMBER THEM LETTING ME GO.
THEY DIDN'T LET YOU GO.
BEHIND YOU!
TURN
OKAY, THIS IS GETTING OLD!
THEN HELP ME OUT OF THIS TINY PACK!

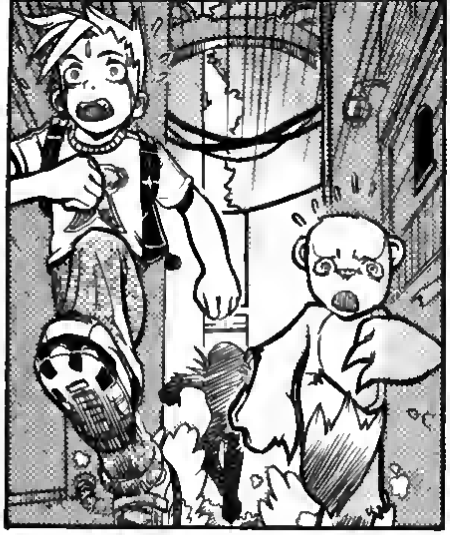
SNAP!
LEAP
PAT PAT PAT
OH NO! WAIT A SECOND! HOLD ON! HOLD ON!
WHAT?!
FUR CRAMP.

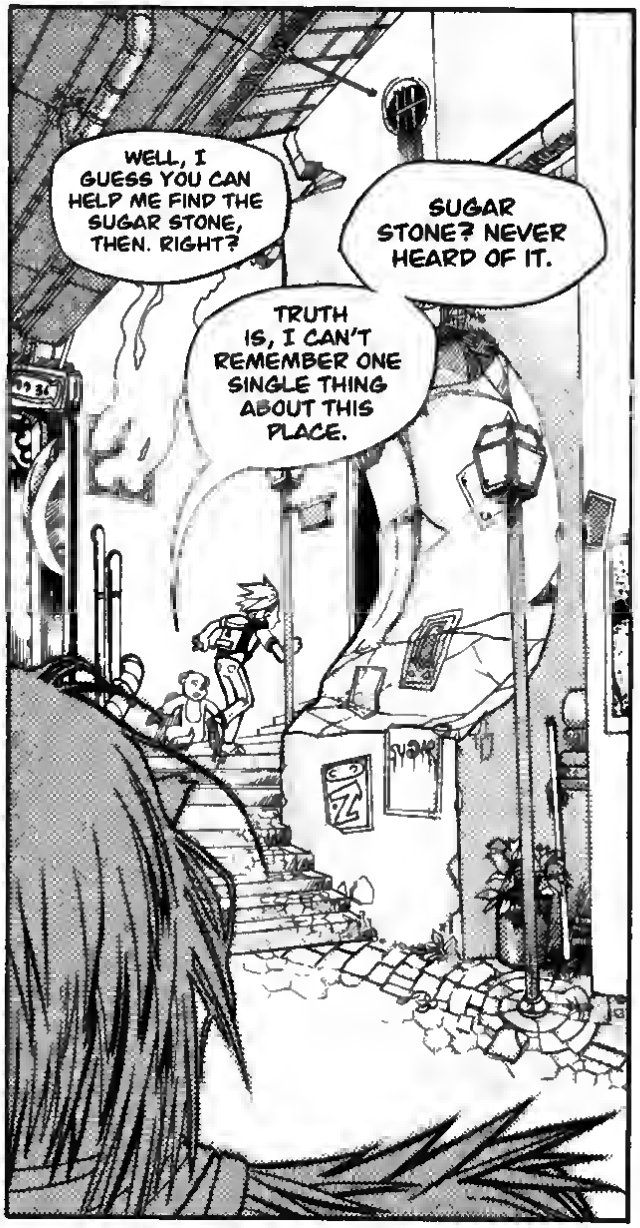
AWRIGHT, THAT'S BETTER.
NOW WHERE WERE WE?
YOU... YOU'RE MOVING AND... TALKING!

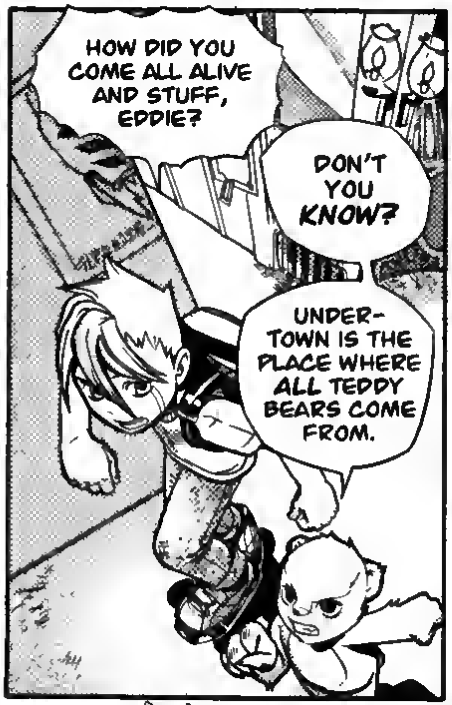
WHOA, SLOW DOWN THERE, KID. WHAT ARE YOU? SOME KIND OF DETECTIVE?
OF COURSE I'M MOVING AND TALKING. WE'RE IN UNDERTOWN.

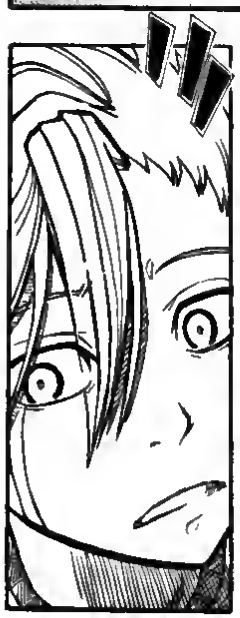

WE ARE IN UNDER-TOWN, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW. WELL, I THINK SO.

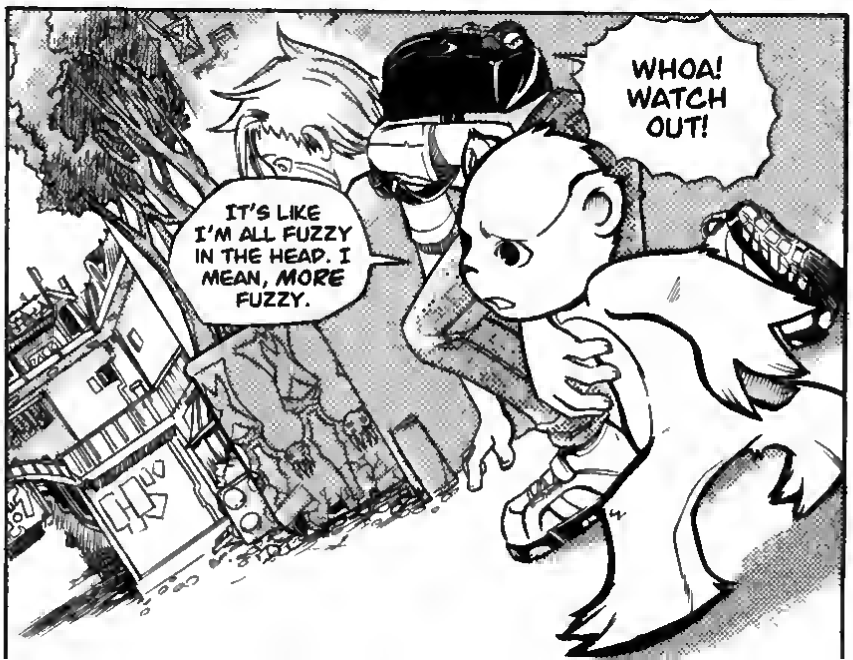
GOOD.
EXCEPT FOR THAT SHADOWY FIGURE FOLLOWING US. THAT? NOT SO GOOD.

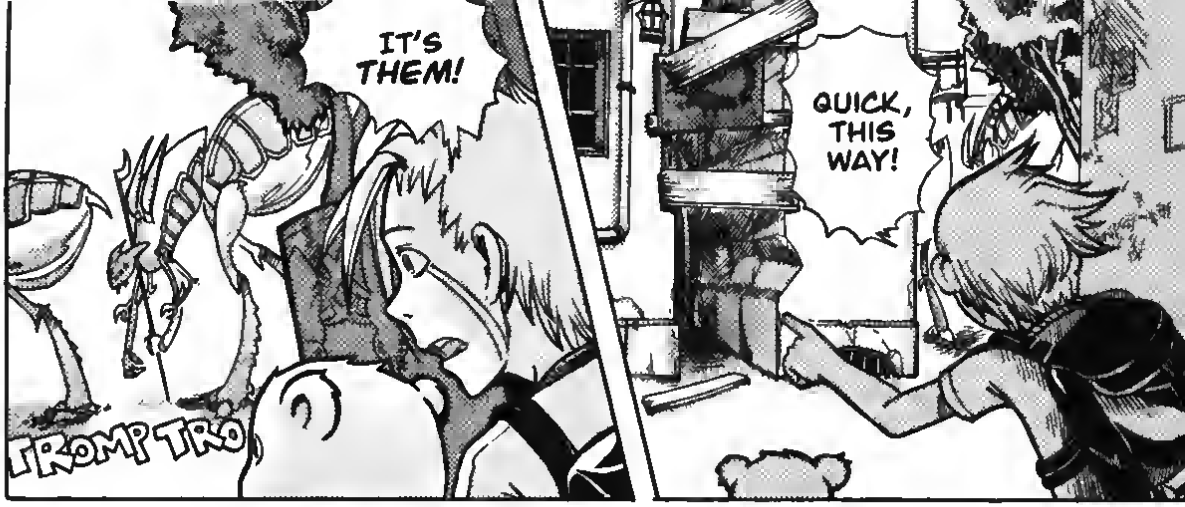


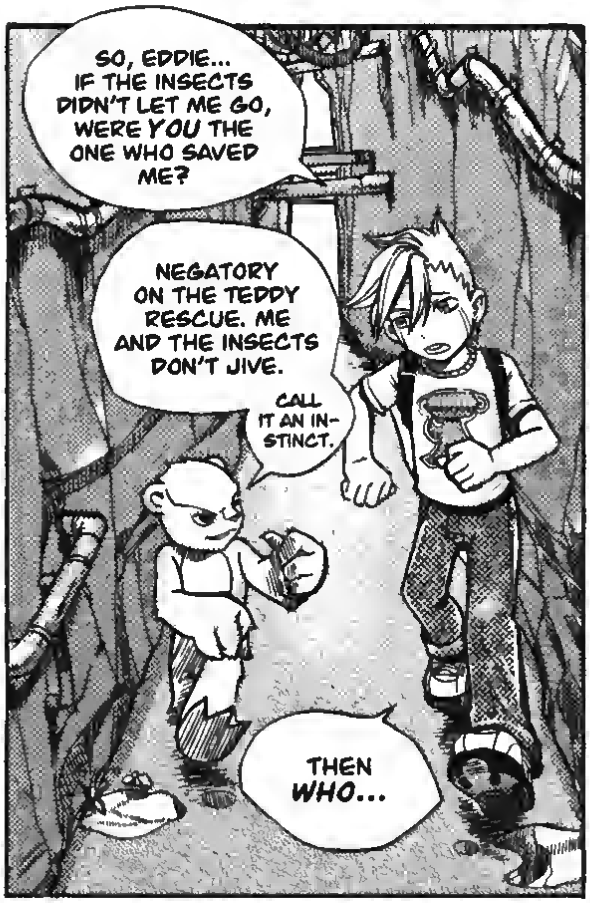

WELL, I GUESS YOU CAN HELP ME FIND THE SUGAR STONE, THEN. RIGHT?
SUGAR STONE? NEVER HEARD OF IT.
TRUTH IS, I CAN'T REMEMBER ONE SINGLE THING ABOUT THIS PLACE.

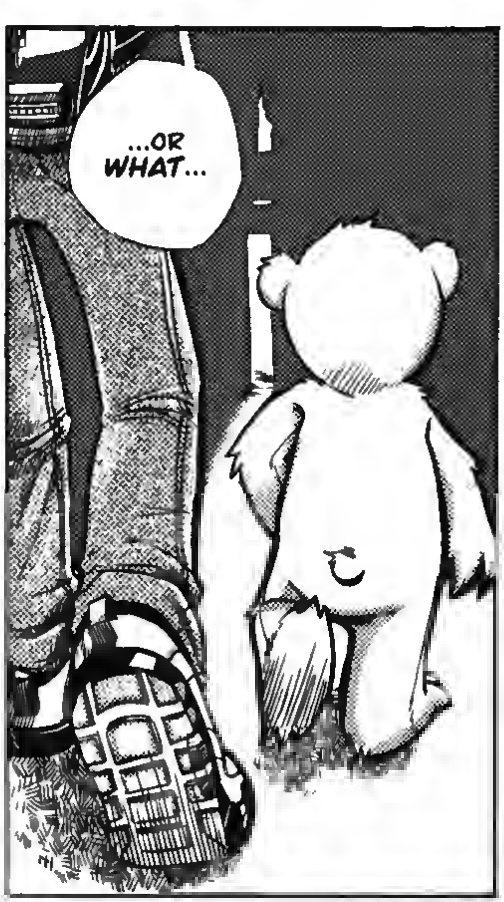

HOW DID YOU COME ALL ALIVE AND STUFF, EDDIE?
DON'T YOU KNOW?
UNDER-TOWN IS THE PLACE WHERE ALL TEDDY BEARS COME FROM.

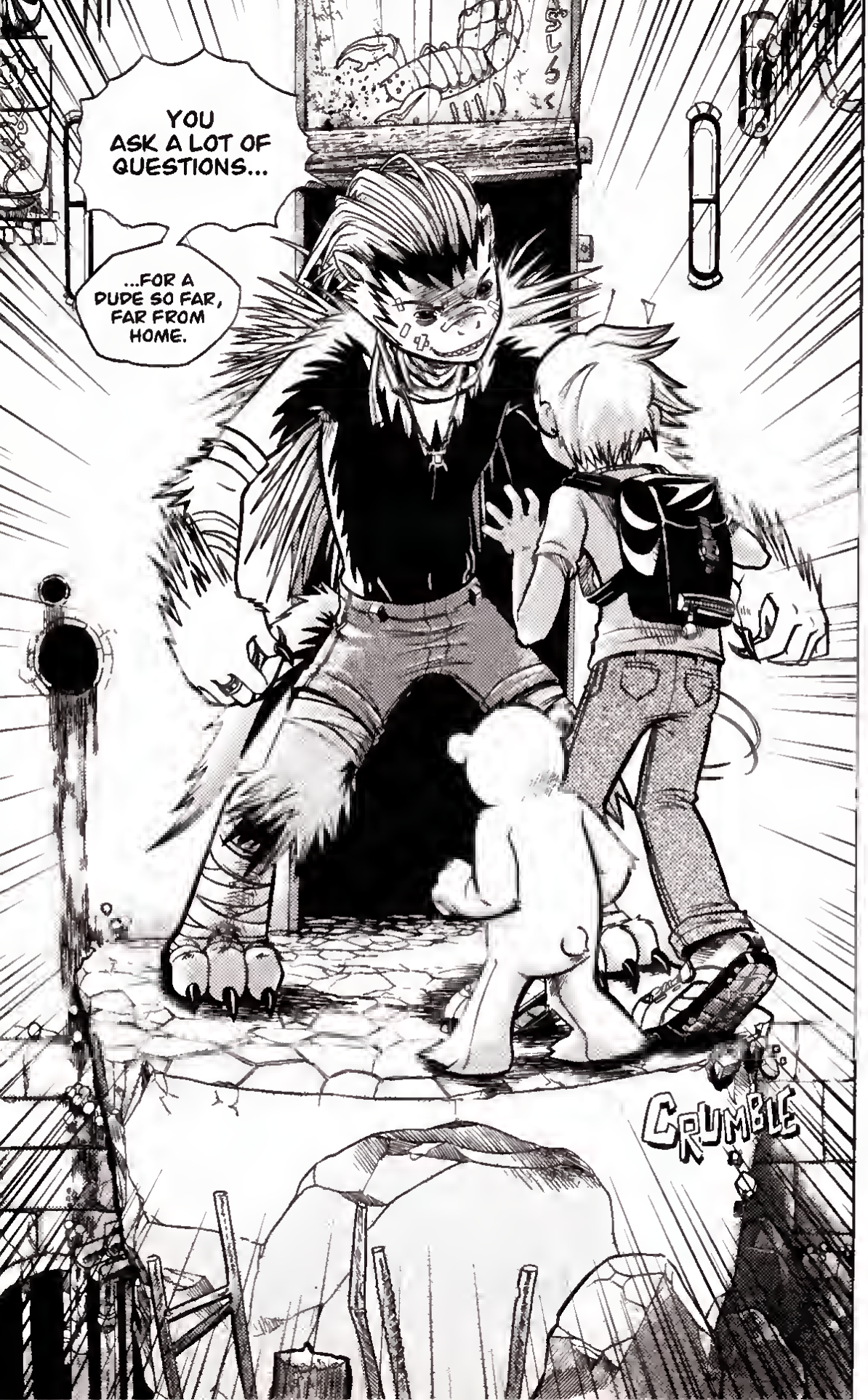



WHOA! WATCH OUT!
IT'S LIKE I'M ALL FUZZY IN THE HEAD. I MEAN, MORE FUZZY.


IT'S THEM!
QUICK, THIS WAY!
TROMP TRO

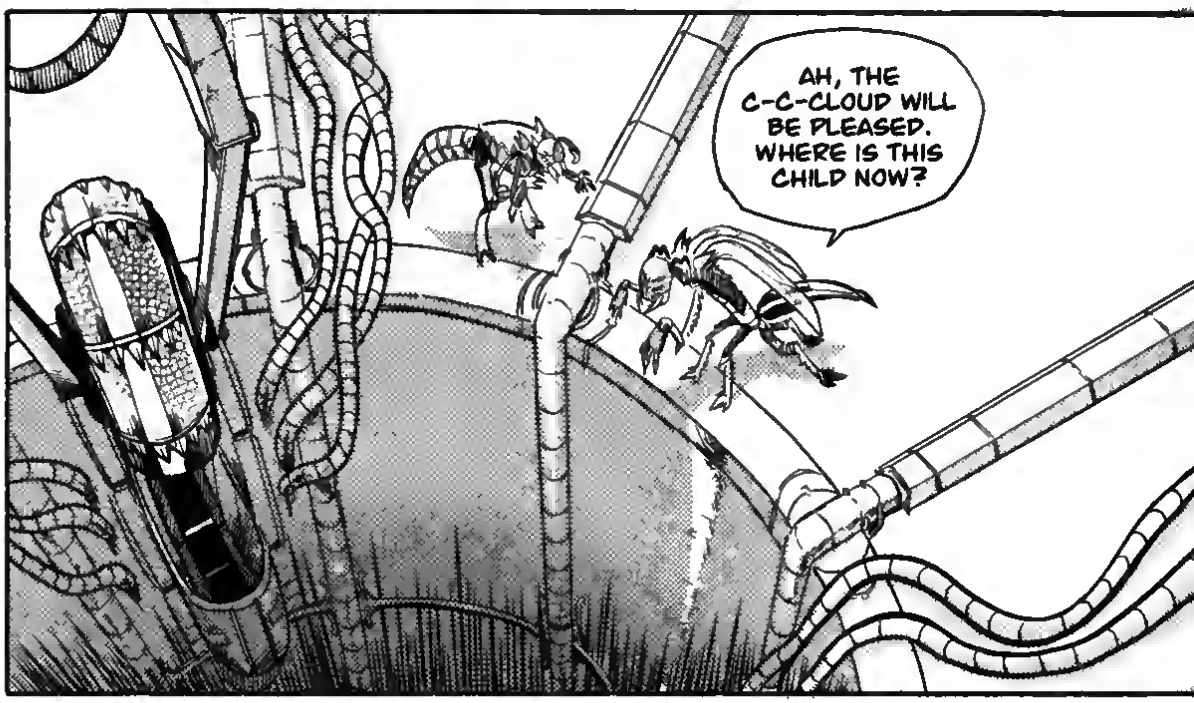

SO, EDDIE... IF THE INSECTS DIDN'T LET ME GO, WERE YOU THE ONE WHO SAVED ME?
NEGATORY ON THE TEDDY RESCUE. ME AND THE INSECTS DON'T JIVE.
CALL IT AN IN-STINCT.
THEN WHO...

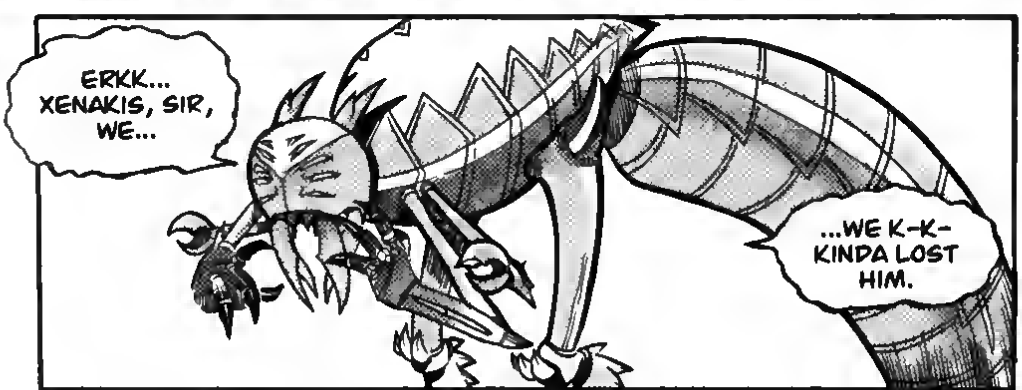

...OR WHAT...


YOU ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS...
...FOR A DUDE SO FAR, FAR FROM HOME.
CRUMBLE

WHAT IS YOUR REPORT, IKEDA?
EYVIND AND I WERE ON PATROL WHEN WE FOUND A... CHILD.
3

A FURMAN?
NO, NO...
HE WAS FROM ABOVE. AND... HE SPOK-K-K-E OF THE SUGAR STONE.


AH, THE C-C-CLOUD WILL BE PLEASED. WHERE IS THIS CHILD NOW?

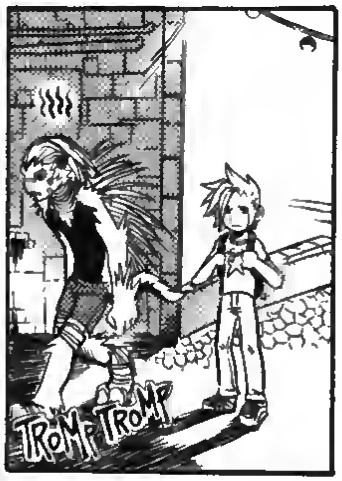

ERKK... XENAKIS, SIR, WE...
...WE K-K-KINDA LOST HIM.

YOU DISGRACE THE HIVE, IKEDA! HKK! I WILL TRACK-K-K THE CHILD MYSELF.
THOK
LEAVE ME AND AWAIT THE C-C-CLOUD'S ORDERS FOR DEALING WITH OUR PRISONER. HOPEFULLY THIS TASK-K-K WILL NOT BE BEYOND YOUR SK-K-KILLS.
THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE, OH GREAT XENAKIS. THE CHILD... I THINK-K-K HE WAS TRAVELING WITH A BEAR.
A TEDDY BEAR? NONSENSE. YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR C-C-CHRONICLES--THE TEDDY BEAR EXODUS WAS LONG AGO.
YES, BUT... IF THE CHILD DOES C-C-COME FROM ABOVE...
WHAT?
"IS IT NOT POSSIBLE THAT THEY ARE C-C-COMING BACK?"

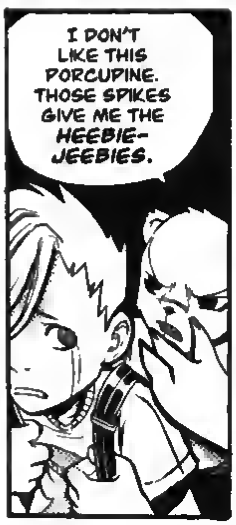
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME!
SHH! THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE!
SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF
SNIFF
YOU'RE LUCKY I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU. THE INSURGENTS WOULD SNATCH YOU SUPER QUICK, DUDE. THIS WAY.
WHAT'S AN INSURGENT?
COME ON. YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.
INSURGENTS ARE INSECT FIGHTERS. NASTY THINGS. THEY'VE PRACTICALLY TAKEN OVER UNDER-TOWN.
WHOA!
SWINK SWINK
WOOBLE
KERPLUNK

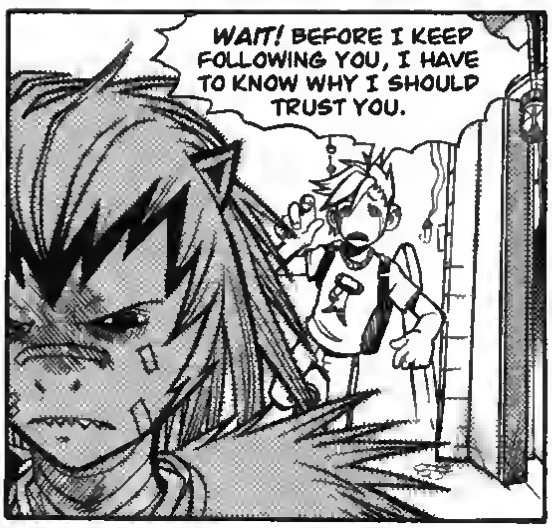
ERRRGH
MY FACE...
PLOP
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY--
BE MORE CAREFUL. YOU DON'T WANT TO FALL INTO THE CRYING RIVER.
MY FACE IS STAINED!
I THOUGHT THEY WERE WAR TATTOOS. DON'T WORRY, THEY LOOK COOL.
"COOL" MY BUTT! IT LOOKS LIKE I'M ALWAYS CRYING! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WHERE AM I? HOW DO I FIND THE SUGAR STONE AND GET HOME?
HOW DO I--

MAN! YOU CAN'T TAKE A BREATH WITHOUT ASKING A QUESTION?
LET ME BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU, DUDE— LARGE, UGLY INSECTS ARE SEARCHING FOR A CONFUSED, FURLESS CHILD. THAT'S YOU.
NOW, YOU CAN KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS OR YOU CAN LET ME LEAD YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE. DO YOU COPE?

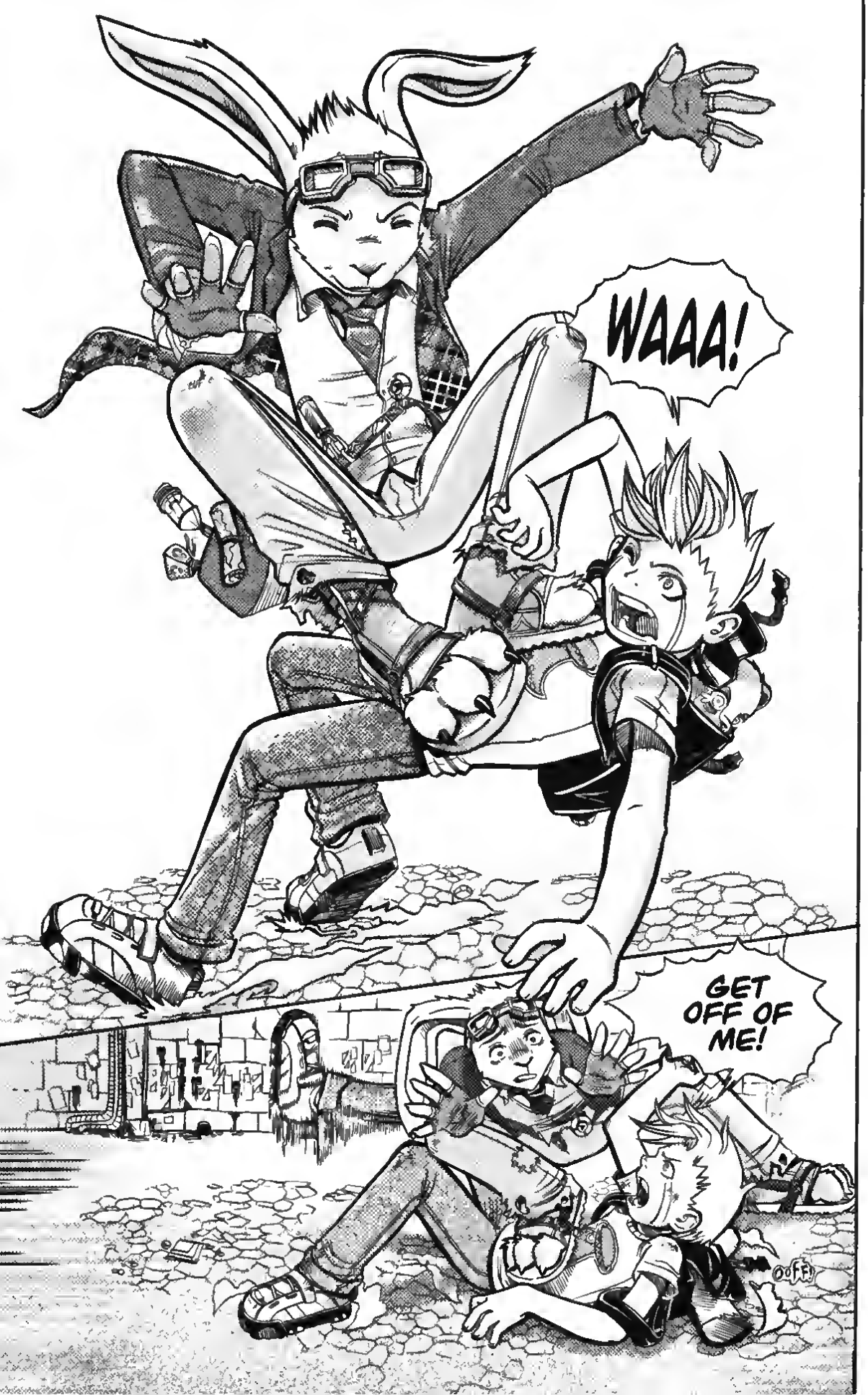

TROMP TROMP

SILENCE—


I DON'T LIKE THIS PORCUPINE. THOSE SPIKES GIVE ME THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES.


WAIT! BEFORE I KEEP FOLLOWING YOU, I HAVE TO KNOW WHY I SHOULD TRUST YOU.

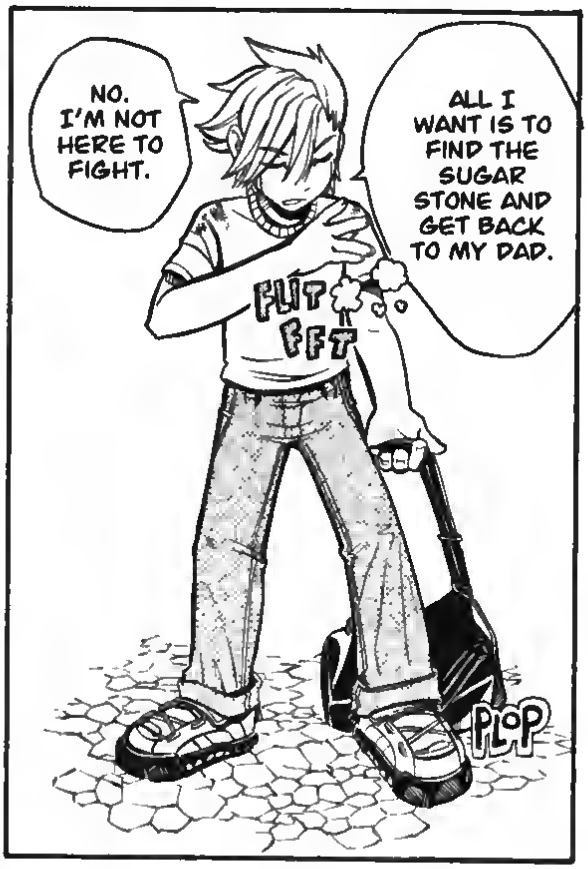
SMIRK


WAAA!
GET OFF OF ME!
OOFF!

NO! DON'T HIT! I'M JUST PLAYIN'!
PUNCH!
YOU'RE SUCH A FRAIDY, DUDE.
HOW CAN YOU BE A RABBIT WHEN YOU GOT NO GUTS?

I GOT GUTS, I JUST DON'T LIKE FIGHTIN'.
Sure...

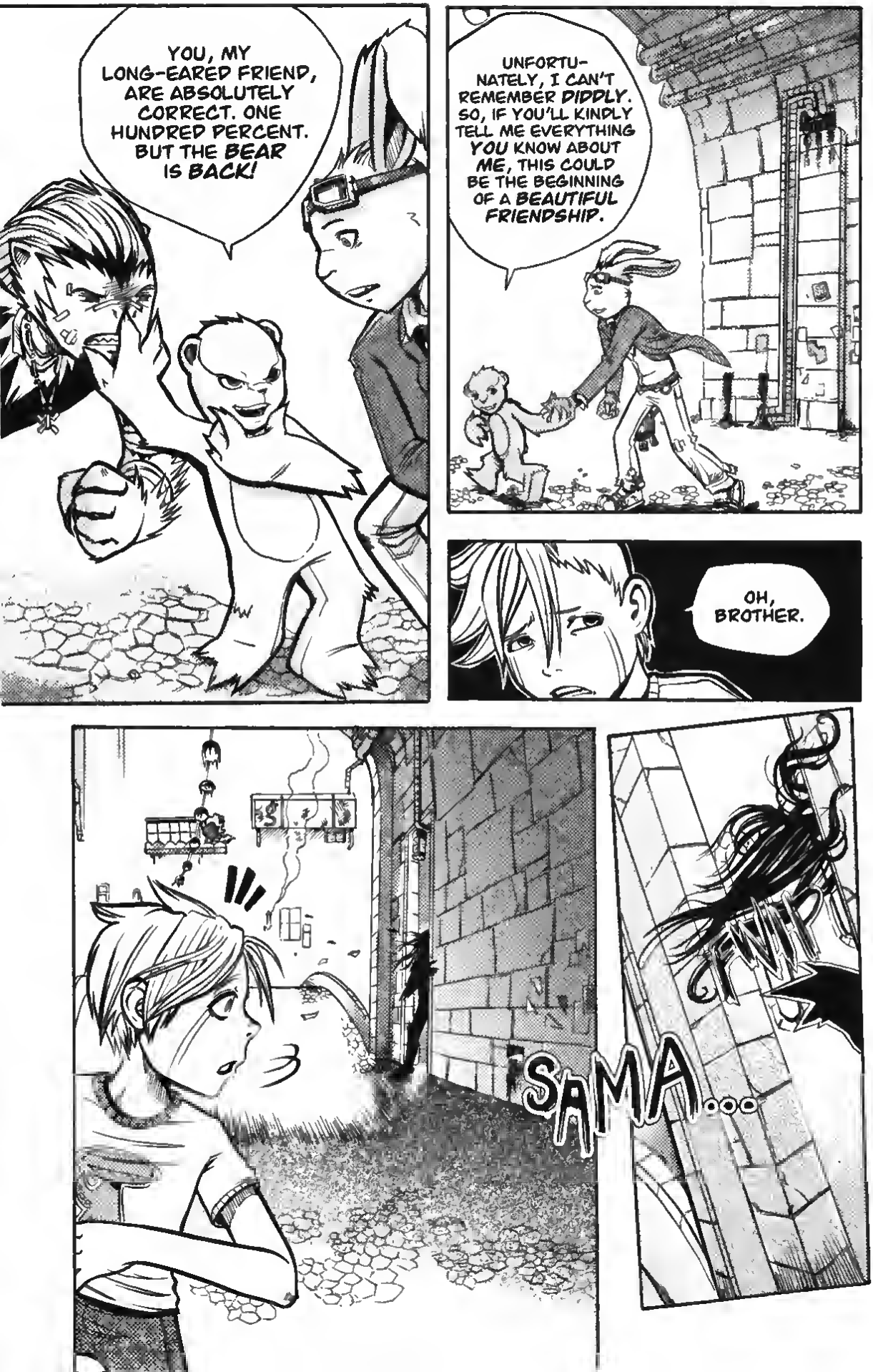
DO YOU LIKE FIGHTIN'?

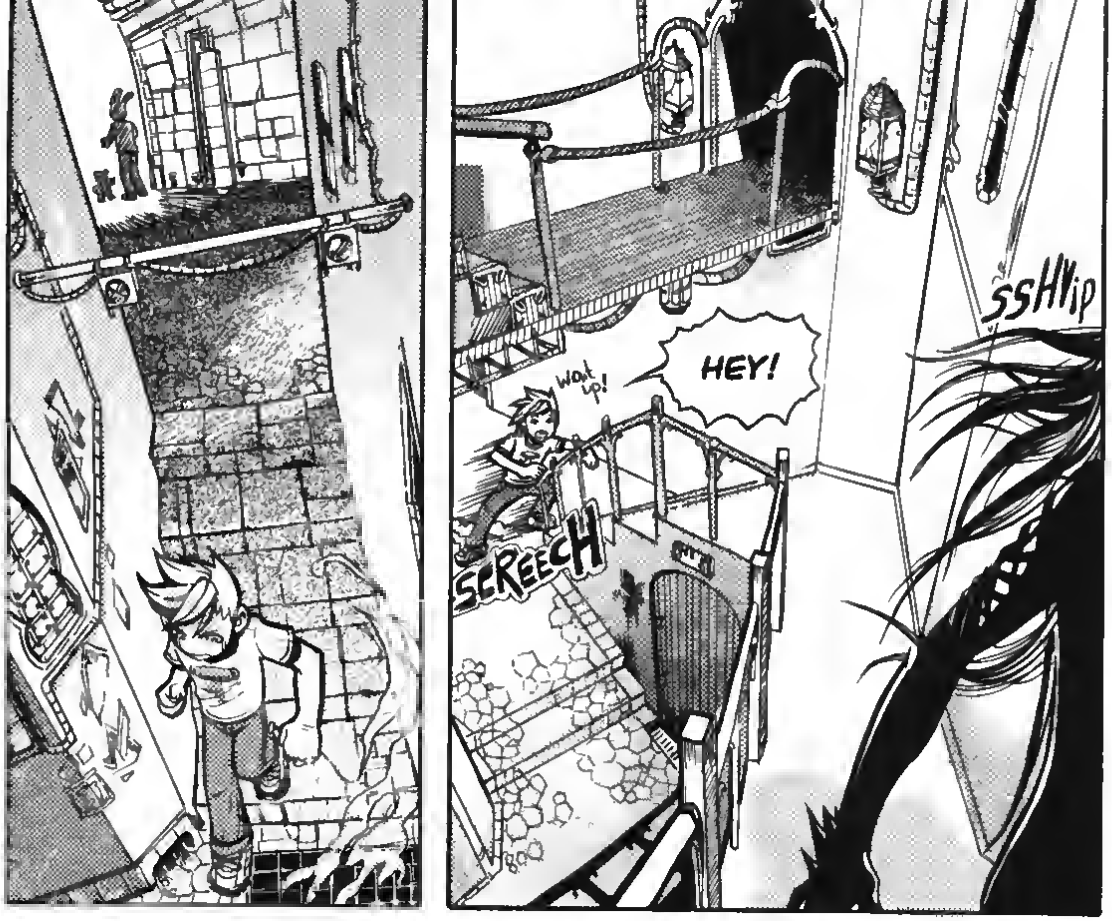

NO. I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT.
ALL I WANT IS TO FIND THE SUGAR STONE AND GET BACK TO MY DAD.
PLOP

HEY NOW, YOU DON'T SAY. WELL, MAYBE WE CAN HELP.

DUDE! LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS FIRST!
I'M B.W., AND THIS FELLA HERE IS JOEY P.P. HOW ABOUT IT!
WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME'S SAMA. MY DAD... HE'S GOT A BAD HEART. I MEAN, HE'S SICK. AND I'M HERE TO HELP HIM.
LIKE I SAID, I'VE GOT TO FIND THE SUGAR STONE THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT CAN MAKE HIM BETTER.
WELL, HOW ABOUT IT. IS THAT THE SADDEST STORY YA EVER HEARD?
I MEAN, WE'D LIKE TO HELP YA, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE DANGEROUS BUSINESS.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

AWRIGHT, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA NOT CONSULTING THE BEAR?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HID AWAY IN MY BACK-PACK.
BOUND
I THOUGHT I SAW SOME-THING STRANGE TRAVELING WITH YOU.
YOU'RE A FUNNY LITTLE FURMAN.
GET IT STRAIGHT, SPIKE, I'M NOT A FURMAN. I'M A TEDDY BEAR.
DON'T CALL ME "SPIKE," TED!
IT'S EDDIE, NOT TED!
WHAT-EVER, TED.
WHAT-EVER... SPIKE.
HEY NOW! TEDDY BEAR? I HEARDA YOU! WHEN I WAS A LITTLE BUNNY, MOM WOULD TELL ALL KINDSA STORIES.
YOU'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE GONE!


YOU, MY LONG-EARED FRIEND, ARE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT. BUT THE BEAR IS BACK!
UNFORTU-NATELY, I CAN'T REMEMBER DIDDLY. SO, IF YOU'LL KINDLY TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, THIS COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP.
OH, BROTHER.
SAMA...


SSHHip
HEY!
wait up!
SCREECH

AH HA!

...
WAAA!
WAAA!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING OFF TO?
GRAB!

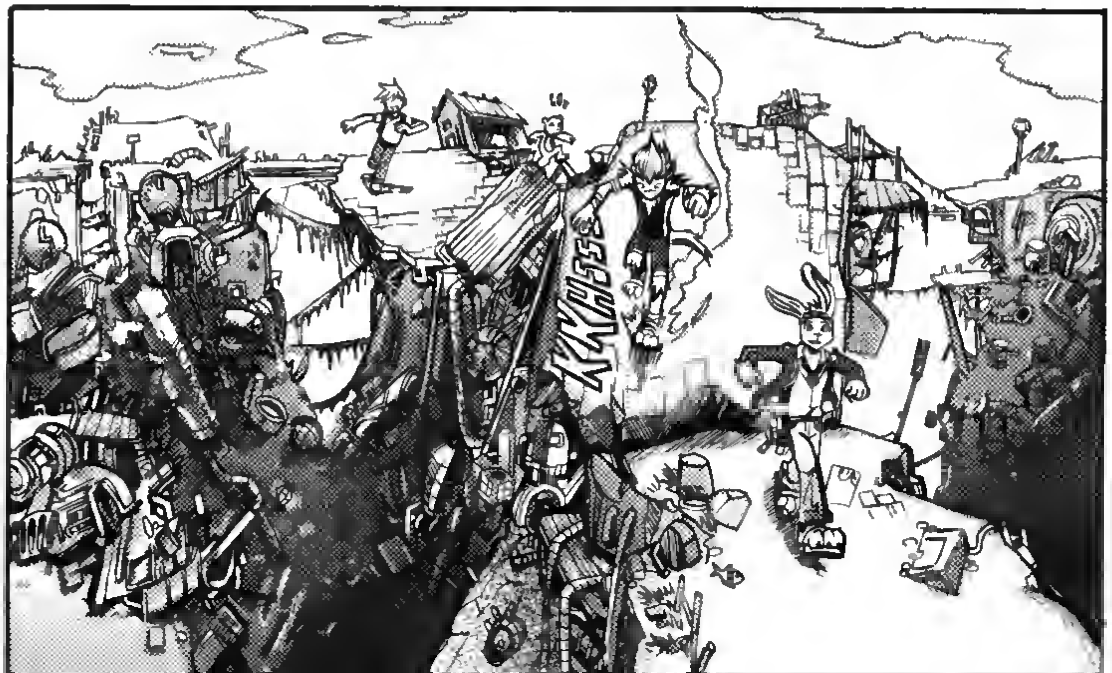
THERE WAS A GIRL! A HUMAN GIRL! DID YOU SEE?
Shhip!
EMPTY
SORRY, DUDE. THERE'S NO ONE HERE.

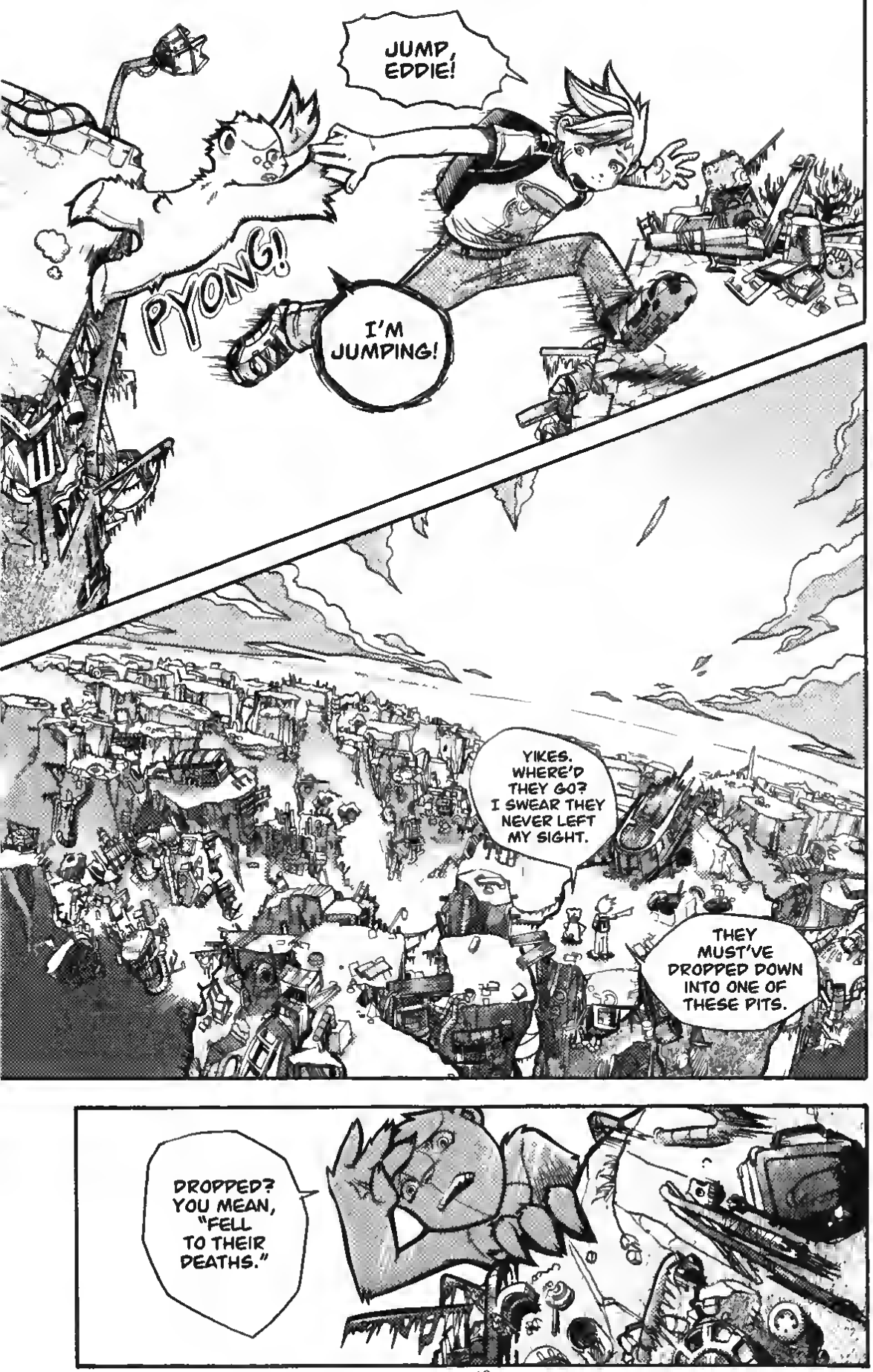
FELLAS! I GOT IT! WE'LL HELP YA, SAMA...BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE A MEMBER OF OUR GANG...
...AND ONLY IF YA PASS THE INITIATION.
TAG TAG! YOU'RE IT! MAKE IT QUICK! CATCH US IF YA CAN, SAMA SLOWPOKE!
IT IS AS YOU PREDICTED, THE C-C-CLOUD--A BOY HAS C-C-COME FROM ABOVE SEEK-K-KING THE SUGAR STONE.
THE PREDICTION WAS NOT MINE. IT IS WHAT THE MIND HAS SEEN. THE MIND IS POWERFUL. GREAT IS HIS VISION.

I HAVE TRIPLED THE NUMBER OF INSURGENTS LOOKING FOR THE BOY. HE WON'T GET FAR.
BZZZZTZ
EXCELLENT. I HAVE FINISHED MY INTERROGATION OF MIGHTY CHIREUGI-- THE RAT KNOWS NOTHING.
THE BROTHER-HOOD WILL RETURN...
C-C-CAN WE FEED ON HIS BLOOD?
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO WITH HIM?
CUT HIS HEAD OFF!
THE FURMEN NEED A STRONGER MESSAGE--TAKE HIM TO THE HALLUCINATION ROOM. GIVE HIM SUGAR UNTIL HIS BRAIN ROTS...
...AND WHEN HE CAN SCREAM NO LOUDER ...
NO.
GUYS! WAIT UP!

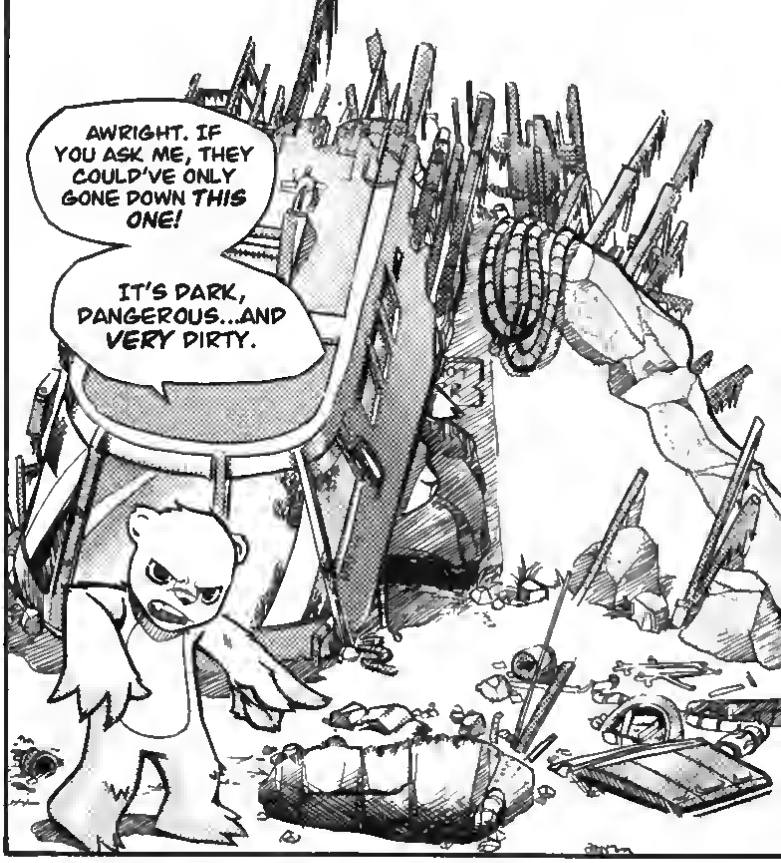
YOU CALL THIS HELP? WHAT GIVES?

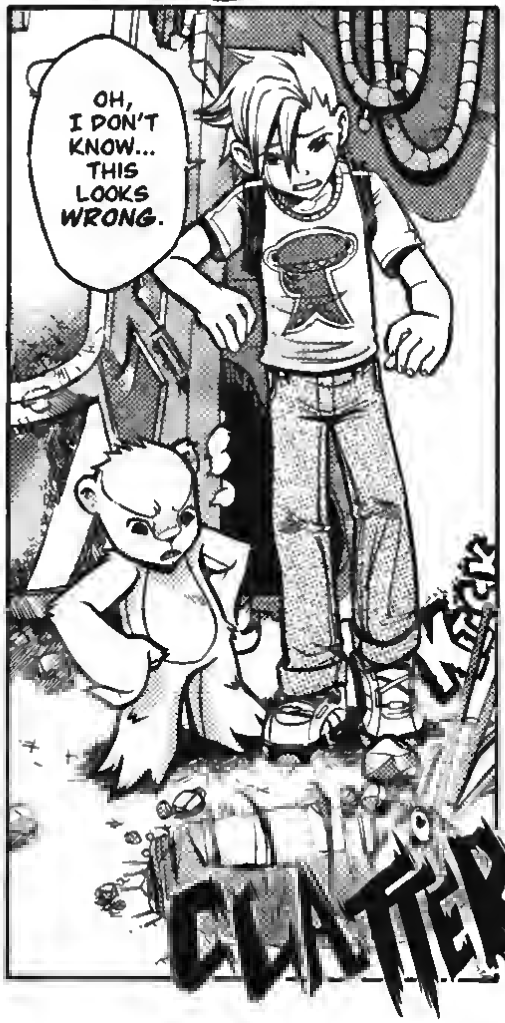
YOU'RE IN THE WORLD'S DIRTIEST JUNKYARD, DUDE. YOU GOT TO HELP YOURSELF.


SCRAX

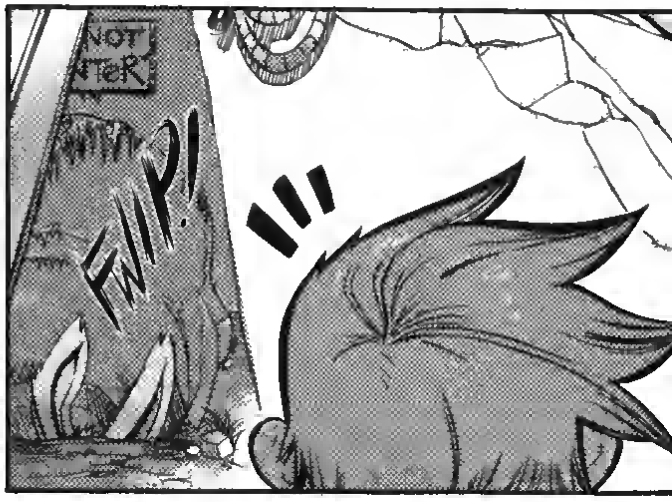

JUMP, EDDIE!
PYONG!
I'M JUMPING!
YIKES. WHERE'D THEY GO? I SWEAR THEY NEVER LEFT MY SIGHT.
THEY MUST'VE DROPPED DOWN INTO ONE OF THESE PITS.
DROPPED? YOU MEAN, "FELL TO THEIR DEATHS."

NO. LOOK AROUND, EDDIE. THESE GUYS ARE TOO SMART FOR BOTH OF THEM TO FALL DOWN SOME HOLE BY ACCIDENT. THERE'S GOT TO BE A TRICK.

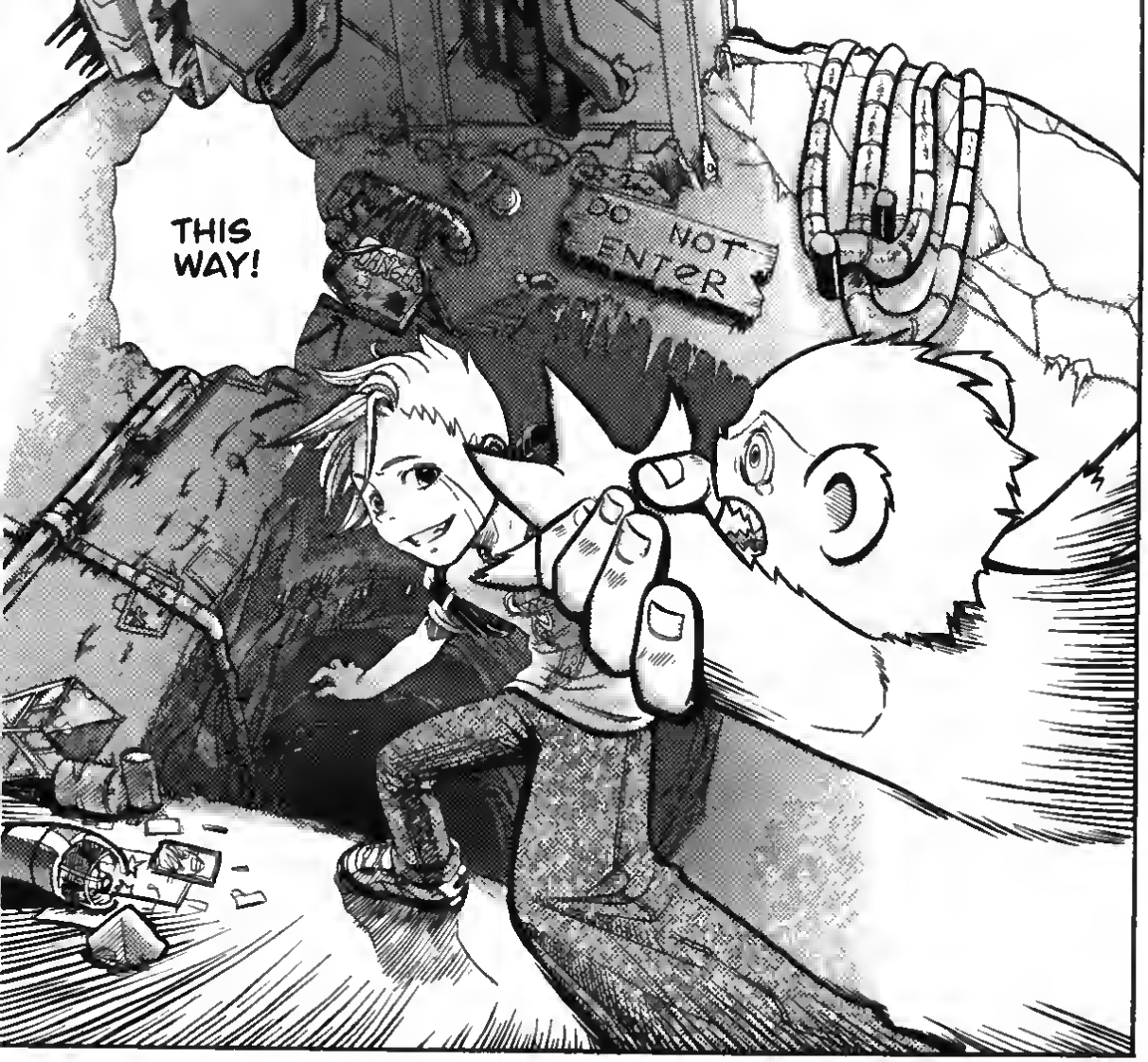

AWRIGHT. IF YOU ASK ME, THEY COULD'VE ONLY GONE DOWN THIS ONE!
IT'S DARK, DANGEROUS...AND VERY DIRTY.

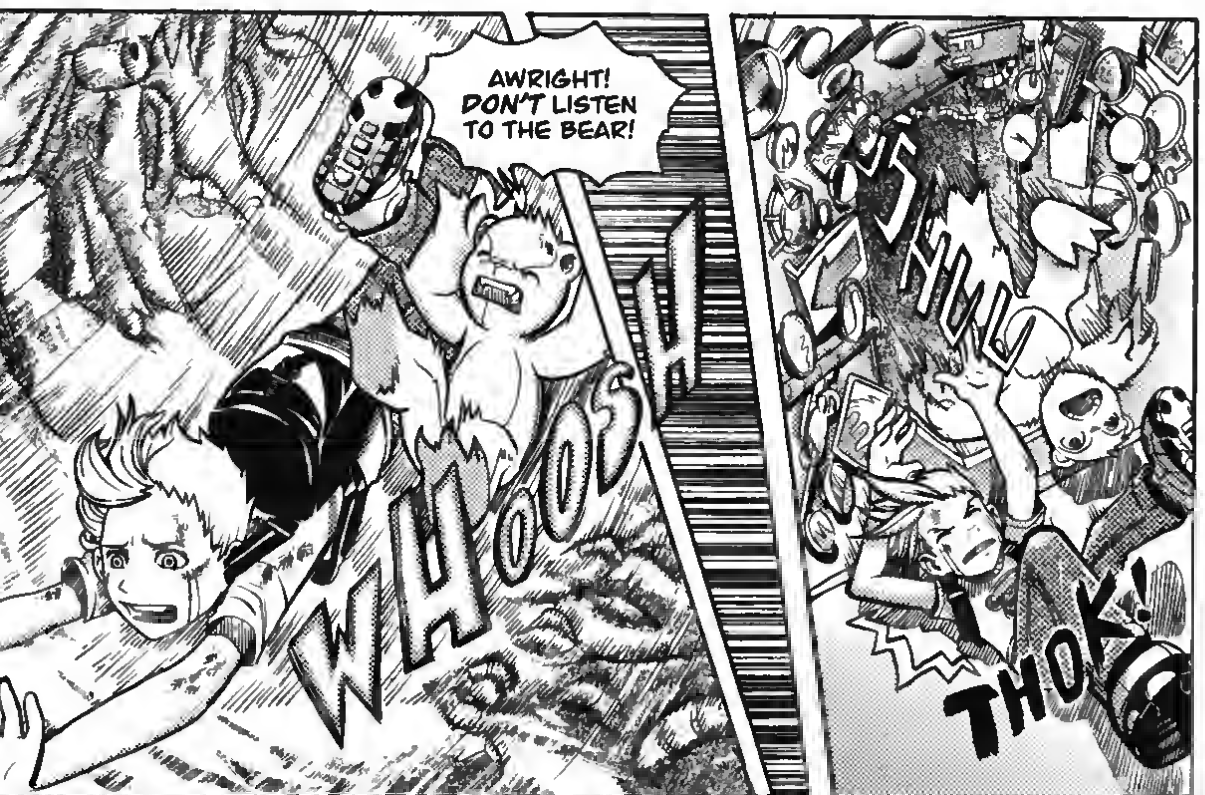

OH, I DON'T KNOW... THIS LOOKS WRONG.
CLATTER

huh?


FWIP!

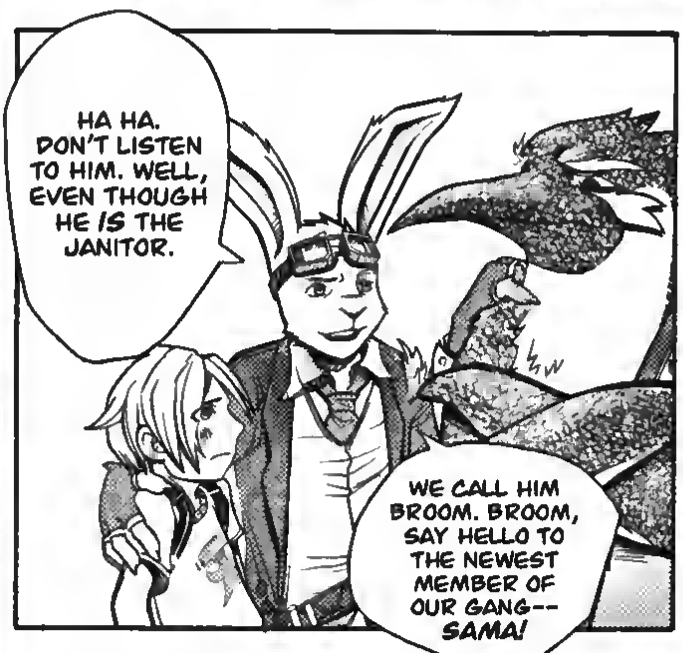
GOT IT.

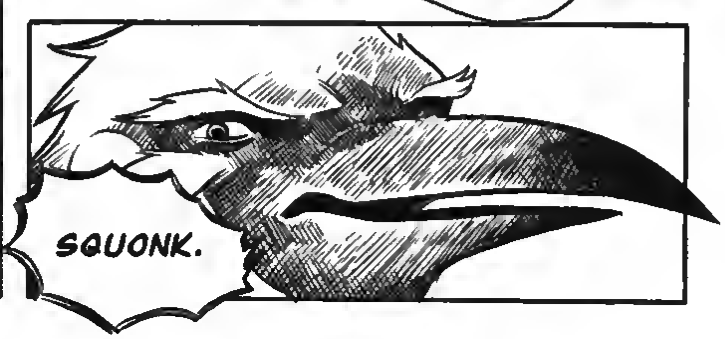

THIS WAY!
DO NOT ENTER


AWRIGHT! DON'T LISTEN TO THE BEAR!
WHOOSH
THUD
THOK!

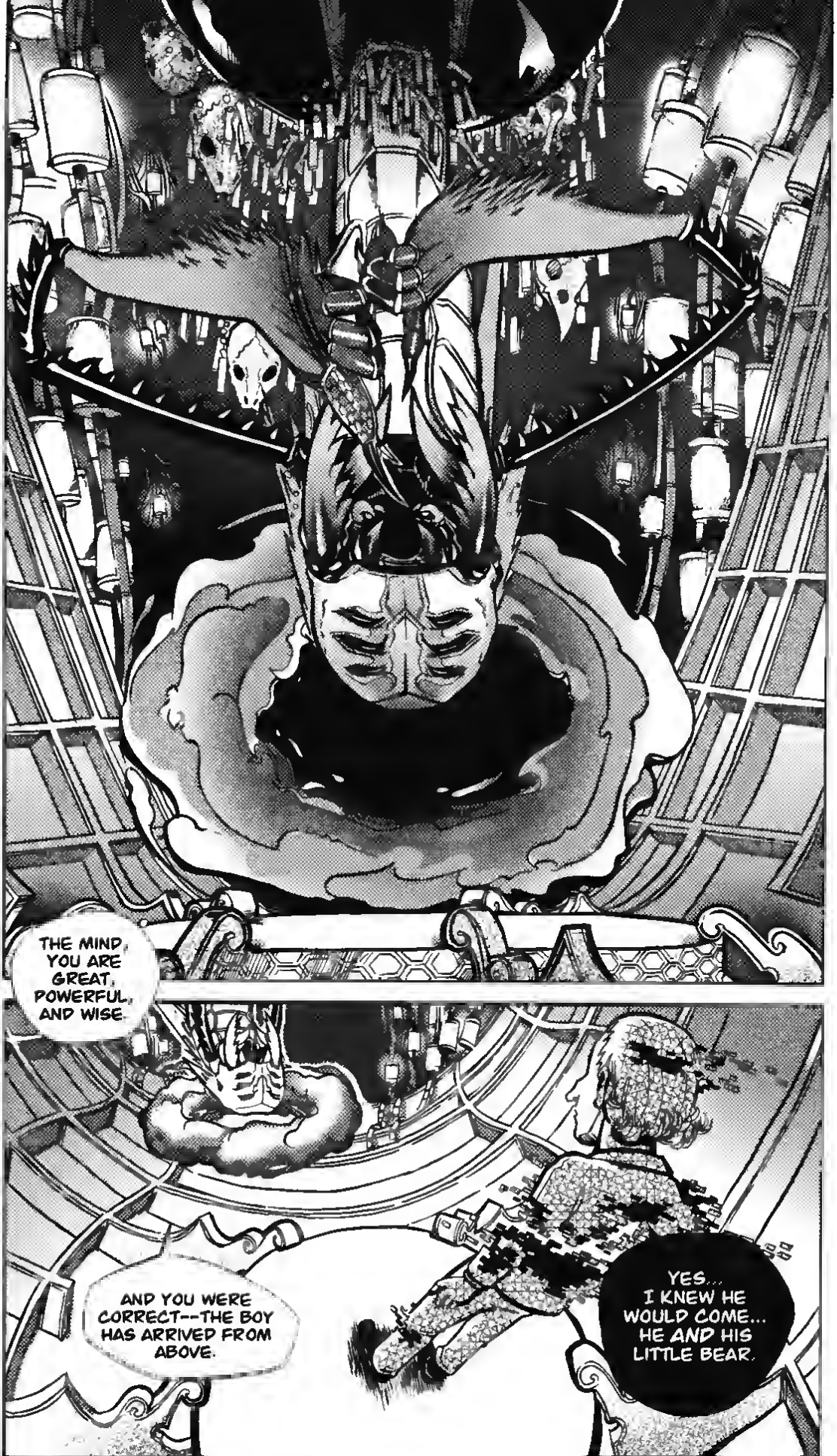
WOO-HOO! HE MADE IT! I KNEW YA COULD DO IT.
BOY, YER DIRTY.

YOU'RE... A PENGUIN.
HE'S NOT A PENGUIN, HE'S THE JANITOR.


HA HA. DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. WELL, EVEN THOUGH HE IS THE JANITOR.
WE CALL HIM BROOM. BROOM, SAY HELLO TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR GANG-- SAMA!


SQUONK.

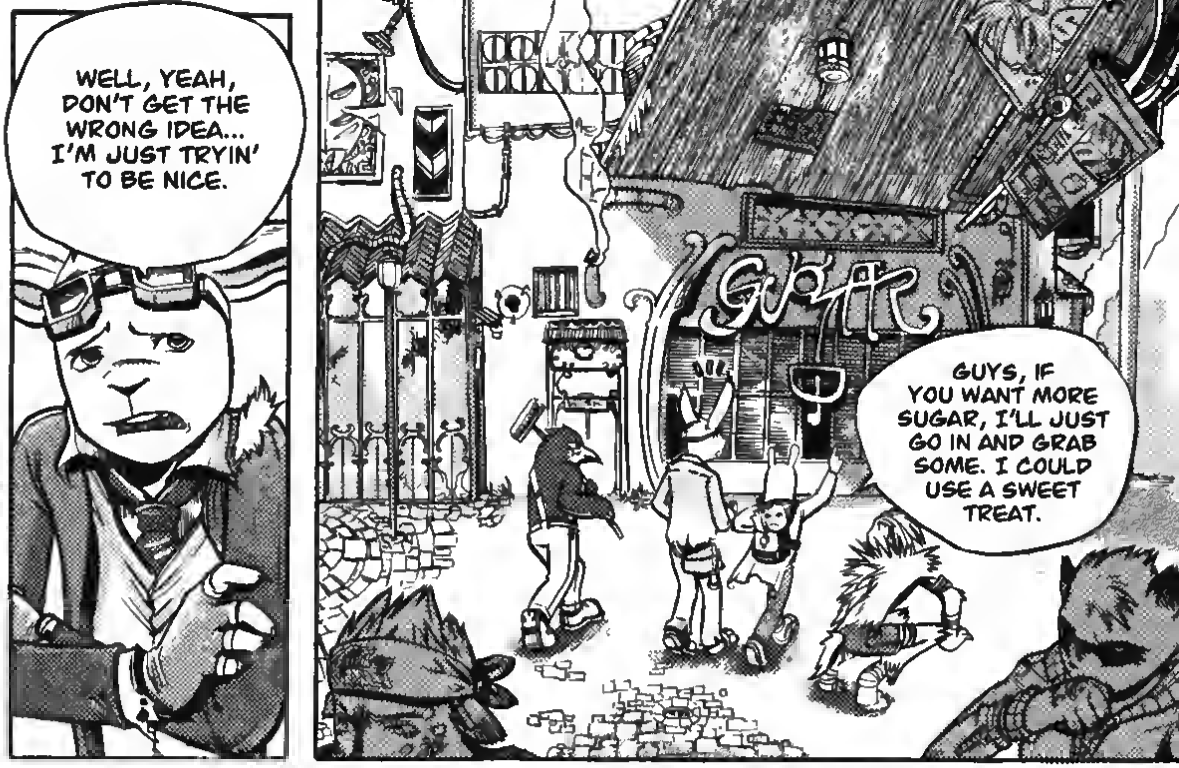
DUDE. YOU FOUND THE SECRET SPOT, OUR HIDDEN HQ. YOU'RE IN IF YOU WANT IN.
AND IF YOU'RE IN, WE'LL HELP YOU FIND THIS SUGAR STONE.
REALLY? YOU GUYS MEAN IT?
JUNK-YARD GANG PLEDGE.
WE DON'T STOP UNTIL WE FIND THE SUGAR STONE.
HOW ABOUT IT! NOTHING CAN STOP US!
Hey Watch it!
SHUUP SHIP SHIP


THE MIND. YOU ARE GREAT, POWERFUL, AND WISE.
AND YOU WERE CORRECT--THE BOY HAS ARRIVED FROM ABOVE.
YES... I KNEW HE WOULD COME... HE AND HIS LITTLE BEAR.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, THE CLOUD, TO WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU-- THE MOMENT YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR IS CLOSE.
INDEED, THE SUGAR STONE IS CLOSE.
SO CLOSE...
TWG
SHIK
KRAK

GUSH!
SHIIPP
SO CLOSE...
I CAN ALMOST TASTE IT!

4
I FEEL SILLY.
THERE'S NOTHING SILLY ABOUT LOOKIN' LIKE A RABBIT.
YOU NEED TO BLEND IN. EVEN A BAD DISGUISE KEEPS US SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF OUR ENEMIES.
AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT BACK HERE. IT SMELLS LIKE SOCKS!
CAN YE SPARE SOME SUGAR, BROTHER?
COME ON, IGNORE HER.
HERE, LITTLE LADY. IT'S ALL I HAVE. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, OKAY?
AH, THE LIGHT OF THE WEST SHINES ON MEH. MAY THE BROTHERHOOD BLESS YE.
YER GIVING AWAY SUGAR. NOT GOOD. STUPID.


WELL, YEAH, DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA... I'M JUST TRYIN' TO BE NICE.
GUYS, IF YOU WANT MORE SUGAR, I'LL JUST GO IN AND GRAB SOME. I COULD USE A SWEET TREAT.

YOU DON'T COPE, DO YOU? SUGAR MUST BE VERY DIFFERENT IN YOUR WORLD.
WHATEVER. I KNOW WHAT SUGAR IS.

DO YOU?
DO YOU KNOW IT POWERS OUR CITY? LOOK UP AT THOSE SUGAR LAMPS.
Rustle Rustle
SUGAR IS THE MOST *VALUABLE* THING IN UNDERTOWN. *GREAT WARS* ARE BEING FOUGHT OVER IT, LIKE THE SECOND RIVER WAR BETWEEN THE FURMEN AND THE INSURGENTS.

THAT AIN'T THE WHOLE STORY.

FOOP!

YEAH, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. IF YOU TASTE ENOUGH SUGAR, IT DOES FUNNY THINGS TO YOUR MIND. YOU SEE THINGS AND HEAR THINGS. IT'S NASTY.
...LIKE A DRUG.
IT'S NOT THAT NASTY.
SOME FELLAS USE A LITTLE TOO MUCH, THAT'S ALL. SEE OVER THERE--IT'S A SUGAR BAR. ADULTS GO THERE TO GET ALL MESSED UP.
THIS WHOLE TOWN IS MESSED UP ON SUGAR. IT MAKES ME SICK. THAT'S ENOUGH OF THE LESSONS.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE WASTING TIME HERE. LESS TALK.
MORE ACTION.
REACH!
I AGREE! WE'VE BEEN SNEAKING AROUND DOWNTOWN FOR HOURS! I'M READY TO FIND THE SUGAR STONE!

SLOW YOUR SNAILS DOWN, DUDE... I'M TALKING ABOUT MY MISSION: TO GET REVENGE ON THE CLOUD.
SWEEP SWEEP
WHOA. DID YOU SAY... THE CLOUD?
hmmm
YEAH. LEADER OF THE INSURGENTS. MEAN. NASTY. THE CLOUD'S GOT TO PAY. AND I'M THE FURMAN WHO'S GOING TO DO IT.
SMACK
JOEY P.P.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS, BUT WHEN I WAS FIGHTING THE INSECTS, I MENTIONED THE SUGAR STONE...AND THEY FLIPPED OUT.
ONE OF THEM SAID "THE CLOUD WANTS THE STONE."
SO?
SO, IF YOU HELP ME FIND THE SUGAR STONE... YOU WOULD BE TOTALLY DISSING THIS CLOUD.
BESIDES...
...YOU PROMISED ME YOU'D HELP FIND THE SUGAR STONE.

YEAH, I KNOW. I PROMISED. IT'S JUST...
I DON'T KNOW.
...
WHAT WE NEED IS A PLAN! HOW ABOUT IT?
SQUONK!
WE SHOULD JUST GO SEE THE BROTHERHOOD OF RATS. THEY'RE THE ONES IN CHARGE.
THE BROTHERHOOD... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT. I HEARD THEY WENT INTO HIDIN'. HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND 'EM?
YOU DIDN'T GIVE AWAY ALL YOUR SUGAR, DID YOU?
I WAS KINDA SAVIN' A BIT FOR AFTER I HAD SOME CARROTS ...
RETURNED
THEN HERE'S THE PLAN--WE SNEAK INTO THAT SUGAR BAR AND FIND SOME DUDE WE CAN BRIBE INTO TAKING US TO THE BROTHER-HOOD!

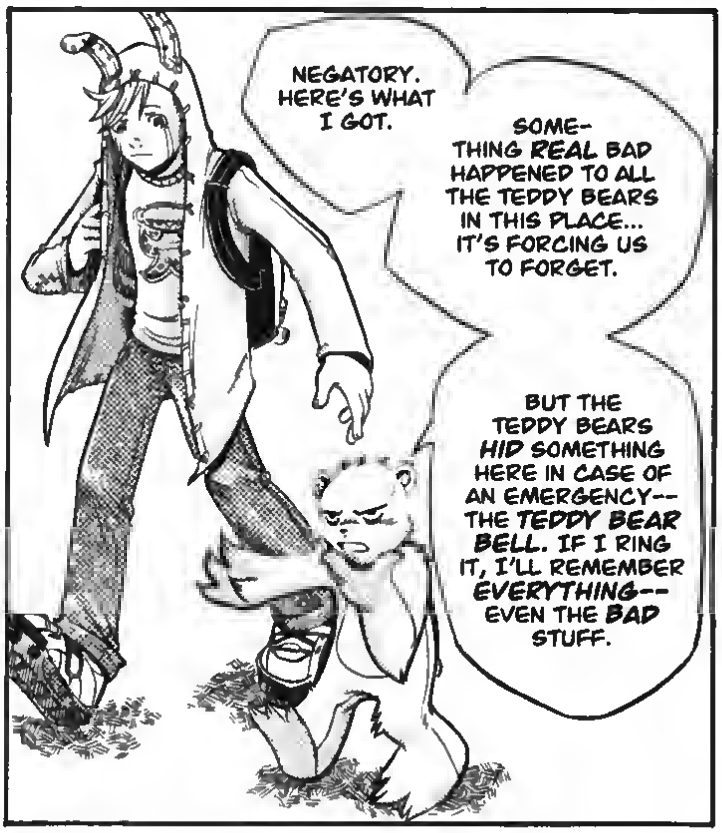
KRCHAK
KRCHAK
KRCHAK
KRCHAK
THE BROTHER-HOOD...
...WILL SAVE ME. YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
SORRY, FURMAN. KE-KE-KE. YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT RESCUE.
WE'RE TRAVELING FAR OUTSIDE THE REACH OF ANY FURMEN FORCES.
KCHK
KCHK
KCHK
NO PLACE IS TOO FAR. WHERE IS THIS "HALLUCINATION ROOM"?
PRAISE THE HIVE, BRANCA. WHAT NEWS?
THE INSECT OCCUPIED NORTHERN REGION OF THE SAND SEA. THERE WAITS A BIG SURPRISE!
YES, NEWS. GOOD NEWS. NEWS ABOUT THE SUGAR STONE... AND ABOUT THE BOY.
PRAISE THE HIVE.
KCHAK

ALL RIGHT. I ASKED AROUND, AND I THINK I FOUND SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO HELP.
SAMA, I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER... I NEED TO TELL YOU SOME-THING.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE FIRST. I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS PLACE.
ARE YOU... MERTENS?
I AM MERTENS. THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE, ARVO.
DO YOU HAVE THE SUGAR?

HAND IT OVER.
PLOP!
SLUPP
SLURP
VERY GOOD. NOW I BELIEVE YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE ONES IN CHARGE.
WE SEEK THE BROTHERHOOD OF RATS.
THEN LET US GO.
WE KNOW WHERE THEY HIDE.

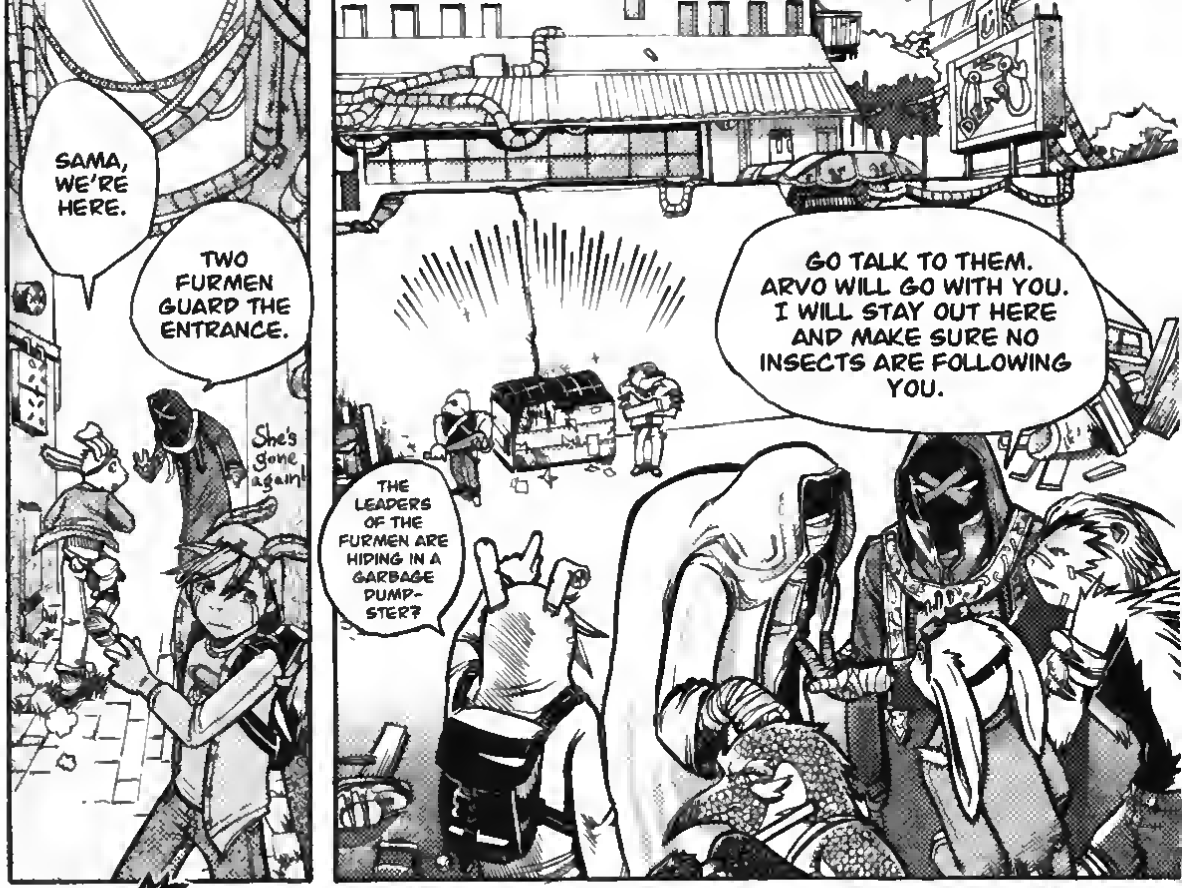
WHILE YOU TWO WERE SC-C-CREWING UP, I PREPARED A TRAP!
KUCHUK KUCHUK KUKUCLUC KUCHIK KUCHUK
GRRRRRRR
LEAVE THE TOUGH WORK-K-K TO BRANCA. I WILL C-C-CLEAN UP...
...AS USUAL.
TELL US! WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT ABOUT BOY SAMA?
POUND POUND
I HAVE MADE A DEAL...WITH A SPY. THE BOY IS BEING FOLLOWED AND WATCHED CAREFULLY.

SAMA, SLOW DOWN AND HOLD UP A SEC! I REALLY GOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!
A WHILE BACK, I STOLE... I MEAN, I BORROWED SOME SUGAR OFF THE RABBIT. I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP ME REMEMBER...AND I WAS RIGHT.
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE SUGAR STONE?


NEGATORY. HERE'S WHAT I GOT.
SOME-THING REAL BAD HAPPENED TO ALL THE TEDDY BEARS IN THIS PLACE... IT'S FORCING US TO FORGET.
BUT THE TEDDY BEARS HID SOMETHING HERE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY-- THE TEDDY BEAR BELL. IF I RING IT, I'LL REMEMBER EVERYTHING-- EVEN THE BAD STUFF.

OKAY, WHERE'S THE BELL?
HM, DON'T REMEMBER THAT PART.
I CAN HELP YOU, SAMA...

HEY, QUIT SNEAKING AROUND! IF YOU WANT TO HELP, SHOW YOURSELF!
WHOA.
YOU CAN CALL ME RAINDROP. I CAN HELP YOU FIND WHAT YOU SEEK, SAMA. BUT NOT NOW...NOW YOU ARE IN DANGER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE ARE NEW FRIENDS WHOM YOU SHOULDN'T TRUST. YOU HAVE THINGS TO DO HERE IN UNDERTOWN...
...IMPORTANT THINGS BEYOND FINDING THE TEDDY BEAR BELL, BEYOND FINDING THE SUGAR STONE.
I KNOW WHY YOUR FACE IS STAINED WITH TEARS. BUT I MUST REPEAT: YOU ARE IN DANGER, SAMA...MEET ME AT THE BUTTERFLY TREE...
GO TO THE BUTTER-FLY TREE.
WHERE?
SAMA SLOW-POKE!
Huh?
BY THE WAY... THE EARS? VERY CUTE.
SPRING


SAMA, WE'RE HERE.
TWO FURMEN GUARD THE ENTRANCE.
She's gone again!
GO TALK TO THEM. ARVO WILL GO WITH YOU. I WILL STAY OUT HERE AND MAKE SURE NO INSECTS ARE FOLLOWING YOU.
THE LEADERS OF THE FURMEN ARE HIDING IN A GARBAGE DUMP-STER?

WE'RE HERE TO SEE THE BROTHERHOOD OF RATS.
GO AWAY.

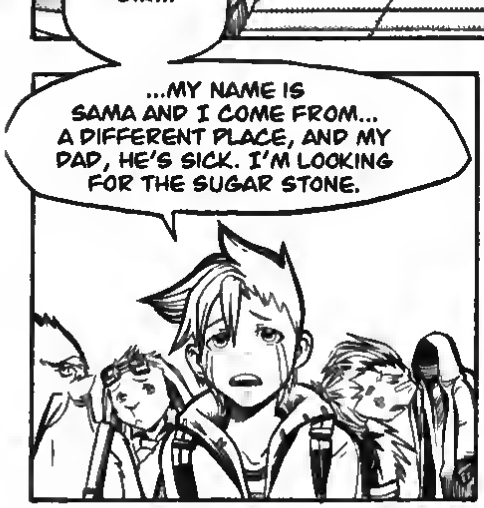
WE'RE *NOT* GOING AWAY. I'M *SAMA*--YOU KNOW, THE *BOY* EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR?
I THINK THE BROTHERHOOD IS GOING TO BE INTERESTED IN WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, BUT I *COULD* GO TO THE INSECTS INSTEAD...

shrug
Shrug

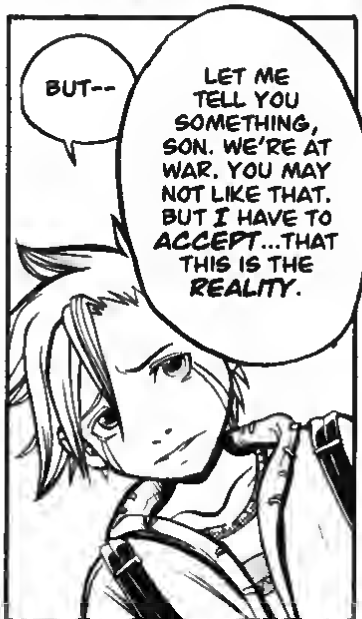
A'RIGHT. THROUGH HERE.

KRAK
FSSHH!
PEE!
TSSSS
FSSHH
CREAK!
TIC
TOC
CHUUHNK
CLICK
A RIGHT, YOU. PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO VERBAL CHIREUG!
SQUONK.
I DID PRETTY GOOD BACK THERE, HUH?

AH, MY PEOPLE TELL ME YOU'RE THAT SPECIAL KID. I LOVE KIDS. I'M WHAT YOU WOULD CALL VERY PRO CHILDREN.
SIR...


...MY NAME IS SAMA AND I COME FROM... A DIFFERENT PLACE, AND MY DAD, HE'S SICK. I'M LOOKING FOR THE SUGAR STONE.

I KNOW YOUR ENEMIES ARE LOOKING FOR IT TOO AND--
LET ME STOP YOU RIGHT THERE. I'M AFRAID IT... IT JUST DOESN'T EXIST.
IT'S... WHAT YOU CALL A MYTHOLOGICAL, AH, MYTH.


BUT--
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, SON. WE'RE AT WAR. YOU MAY NOT LIKE THAT. BUT I HAVE TO ACCEPT...THAT THIS IS THE REALITY.

BUT--
I ALREADY KNOW THE INSURGENTS ARE LOOKING FOR YOU. THIS IS WHAT I LIKE TO CALL... "TROUBLING" TO ME.
TO THINK THAT THEY CAN HELP YOU... WELL, IT'S ABSURD. YOU SEE, WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS.

WE? WHERE ARE YOUR BROTHERS, VERBAL CHIREUGI?

SON, I HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK, AND I RESPECT YOUR FEEDBACK. WE'VE GOT OURSELVES, AH, A SITUATION. IT'S CALLED "WE'RE AT WAR."
stop that!
SWEEP SWEEP
MR. CHIREUGI IS SAYING THE BROTHERHOOD IS EXPERIENCING AN INVERSE UNITY VARIANCE.
YES, THANK YOU, MR. CHAIN.
THAT'S IT EXACTLY. I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN MAKE IT ANY MORE PLAINER. MY BROTHERS ARE MISSING-- ONE'S BEEN CAPTURED.
SO--
IT'S TOUGH BEING A LEADER.
IT'S HARD WORK.
YOU GOT TO MAKE LOTS OF DECISIONS. I'M GOING TO MAKE ONE RIGHT NOW--
I'M GOING TO HELP YOU.
...
BZRR
WE CAN GET YOU BACK HOME, SON.
WE HAVE THE POWER TO DO THIS. BUT WE GOTTA BE TOGETHER. WHAT I'M SAYING IS FIND MY BROTHERS-- NOBLE AND MIGHTY, GOOD BOYS THOSE TWO--HELP ME REUNITE THE BROTHERHOOD. HELP ME... HELP YOU.

NOW IS THE TIME...
REVEAL YOURSELF!
ARVO? WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT... WHAT'S THAT KID DOING?
KE-KE-KE-KE!
OH NO!

PRAISE THE HIVE!
SCRAPE
HE'S GOT A SUGAR BOMB!
WE MUST USE OUR MAGIC! HELP ME PROTECT OUR FRIENDS!
QUICKLY! HUDDLE TOGETHER!
KE-KE-KE-KE-KE-K

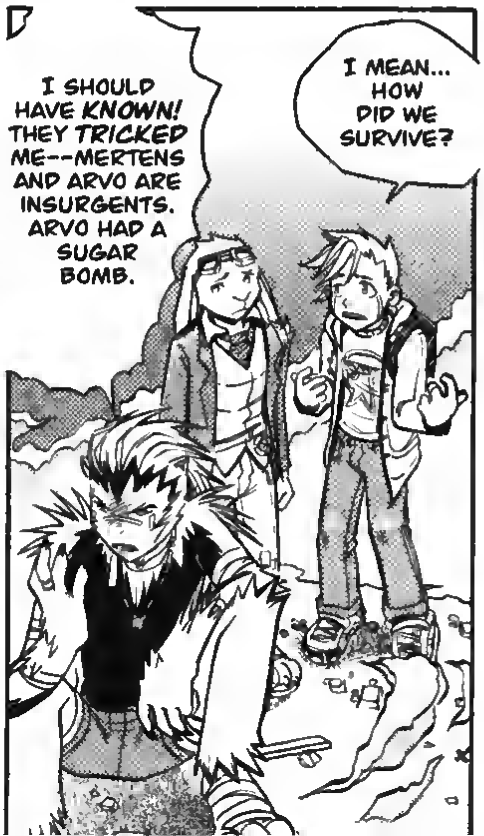
DROP IT!
NO!
SAMA! WE HAVE TO RUN!
NO! THERE'S NO TIME!
ZZZR
TIK TIK TIK
BEEP

CRACK

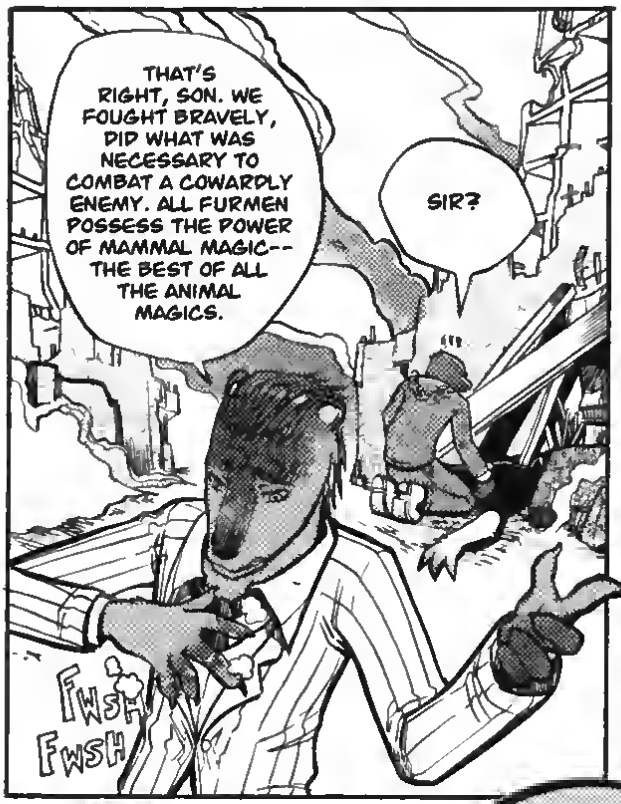
BBKROOM

5

MAN, WHAT JUST HIT US?
OUCH! MY EARS!
SWEEP
SWEEP
SWEEP


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! THEY TRICKED ME--MERTENS AND ARVO ARE INSURGENTS. ARVO HAD A SUGAR BOMB.
I MEAN... HOW DID WE SURVIVE?

MAGIC. I DON'T USUALLY APPROVE OF THAT KIND OF BUSINESS. BUT JOEY P.P. AND MR. CHAIN...
...YOU FELLAS SAVED US!


THAT'S RIGHT, SON. WE FOUGHT BRAVELY, DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO COMBAT A COWARDLY ENEMY. ALL FURMEN POSSESS THE POWER OF MAMMAL MAGIC-- THE BEST OF ALL THE ANIMAL MAGICS.
SIR?
FWSH FWSH

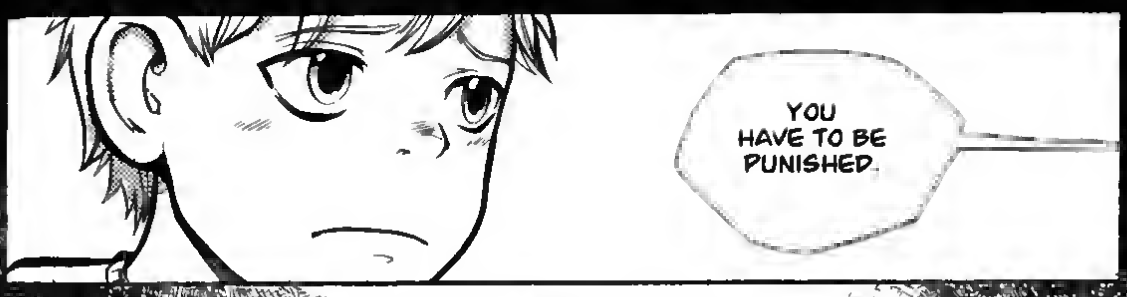
THE BOYS DIDN'T MAKE IT.

SEE? DON'T YOU SEE? THIS IS WHAT THE INSECTS ARE LIKE!
THEY DON'T HONOR ANYTHING! THEY DESTROY EVERYTHING... EVEN THEM-SELVES!

SEE? LOOK AT THIS MESS!
THAT BOY DESTROYS EVERY-THING HE TOUCHES!
HE DIDN'T MEAN IT. HE'S JUST A KID.
I'M NOT JUST A KID!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE A KID, THEN DON'T ACT LIKE ONE!
HONEY, CALM DOWN. WE CAN FIX IT.

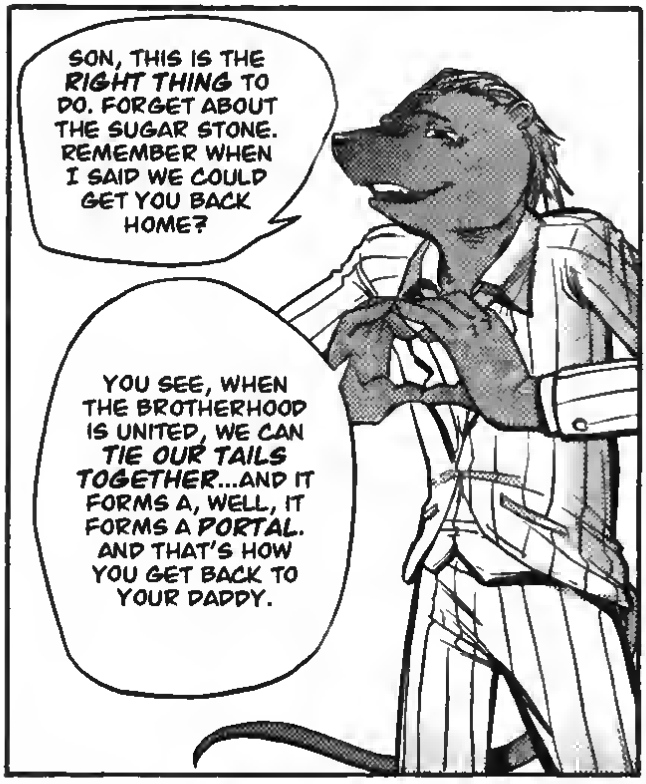
SAMA, THERE ARE THINGS IN LIFE THAT ARE *PRECIOUS*...THINGS, IF YOU BREAK, YOU CAN'T FIX. *MISTAKES* HAPPEN. *ACCIDENTS* HAPPEN. THAT'S *NOT* WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

YOU HAVE TO BE *GOOD*. YOU HAVE TO DO THE *RIGHT THING*. BECAUSE SOMETIMES WHEN YOU'RE BAD, YOU CAN'T JUST SAY SORRY. IT'S NOT ENOUGH.


YOU HAVE TO BE PUNISHED.

THE INSECTS CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS.
WE'LL FIND YOUR BROTHERS. WE'LL *PUNISH* THE INSECTS.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR DAD? WHAT ABOUT THE SUGAR STONE? HOW ABOUT IT!
I THINK MY DAD WOULD WANT US TO HELP.

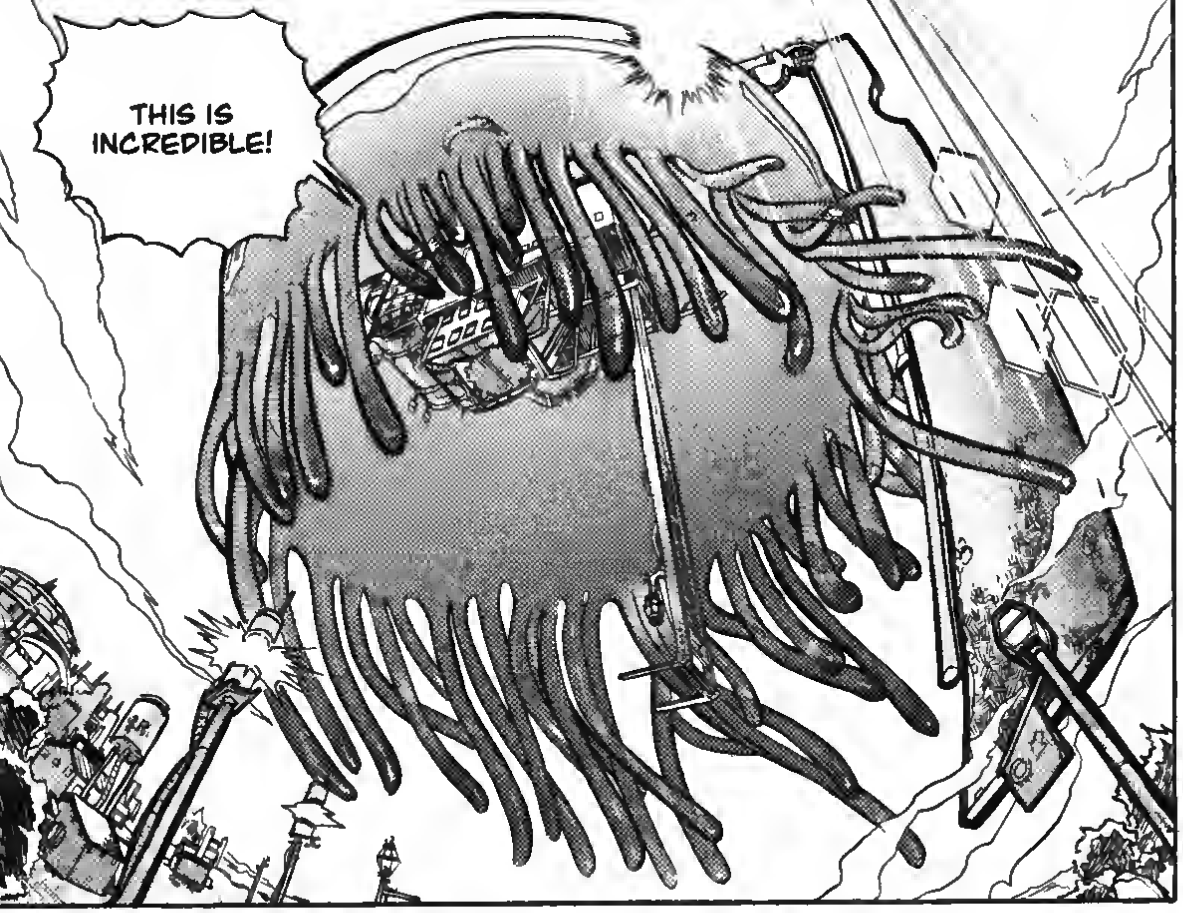

SON, THIS IS THE *RIGHT THING* TO DO. FORGET ABOUT THE SUGAR STONE. REMEMBER WHEN I SAID WE COULD GET YOU BACK HOME?
YOU SEE, WHEN THE BROTHERHOOD IS UNITED, WE CAN *TIE OUR TAILS TOGETHER*...AND IT FORMS A, WELL, IT FORMS A *PORTAL*. AND THAT'S HOW YOU GET BACK TO YOUR DADDY.

WHAT'S MORE, I GOT *THIS* TO GIVE YOU. I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT USEFUL.

FWIISH

GRAB!!
WOOSH
Sama has achieved Mammal Magic!

I'M TELLIN' YOU, THIS FELLA I KNOW IS THE BUSINESS. VERBAL CHIREUGI SAID WE NEED TO GO EAST.
THIS FELLA CAN DO IT... CAN DO ANYTHING AND GO ANY-WHERE--
YOU TALKING 'BOUT ME, CUTE STUFF?
B.W. IS RIGHT, BUT HE DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY "FELLA"... I'M A FULL-BLOODED BUNNY RABBIT GIRL. THE NAME'S R.E. NICE TO MEET YA!
UM, DID I SAY "FELLA"?
FORGET ABOUT IT! JUST RIBBIN' YA. I GOT YOUR U-MAIL. THE JELLYWORM IS READY TO TAKE OFF WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GO.
WE GOT TO WAIT FOR JOEY P.P. FIRST. HE RAN OFF TO REST AND RECUPERATE BEFORE WE LEFT.
RUFFLE RUFFLE
HEY...
WHAT'S A JELLY-WORM?


THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

EVERY-THING LOOKS SO SMALL FROM UP HERE.
WE CAN'T GO TOO FAR UP. IF WE GET TOO HIGH IN THE SKY, THE JELLYWORM WILL EVAPO-RATE. AND THEN...FORGET ABOUT IT!

SO, YOU CAN ONLY TAKE US TO THE EDGE OF THE SAND SEA?
YUP. TOO HOT AND DRY FOR A JELLYWORM. I READ ON THE UNDERNET THAT THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN THE I.O.N.R.--I'LL TAKE YOU AS CLOSE AS I CAN.
I'M GOING TO CHECK ON YOUR PORCUPINE FRIEND. IS HE ALWAYS THIS GRUMPY?

YES!

SMOOCH!!
IS SHE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
NO WAY! I MEAN SHE'S A GIRL AND SHE'S A FRIEND. BUT GIRLFRIEND? I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT!
SPEAKING OF GIRLS... I'VE GOT A SECRET TO TELL YOU...
FWISH
CKIK CHK CGK CHK CHK
THE DUNE CAVES... SO THAT'S WHERE YOUR HALLUCINATION ROOM IS. I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE.
YOU HAVE HEARD NOTHING, RAT!
NO! IT CAN'T BE!

IT CAN'T BE! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
I'M JUST TELLIN' YA WHAT I'VE HEARD. YOU SAY THIS "RAINDROP" IS A HUMAN GIRL, HERE IN UNDERTOWN. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ONLY HUMAN TO COME HERE BESIDES YOU WAS A GIRL.
SHE WAS CAPTURED BY THE INSECTS. WHAT I HEARD IS THEY TORTURED HER AND CORRUPTED HER UNTIL SHE BECAME PURE EVIL.
NOW SHE HAUNTS THE LAND.
I MEAN, THAT SOUNDS LIKE THIS RAIN-DROP.
WAIT... WHAT ABOUT THE OLD MAN AT THE HOSPITAL? HE TOLD ME HE CAME TO UNDERTOWN.
WHAT OLD MAN?
HEY, GANG. THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO.
NOW WE WALK.

WHOOSH
THIS SUCKS!
WALKING SUCKS! LOOKING FOR THIS RODENT SUCKS! I'VE GOT SAND IN MY FUR, PEOPLE! NOT COOL.
SOMEBODY SHUT THAT BEAR UP!
WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

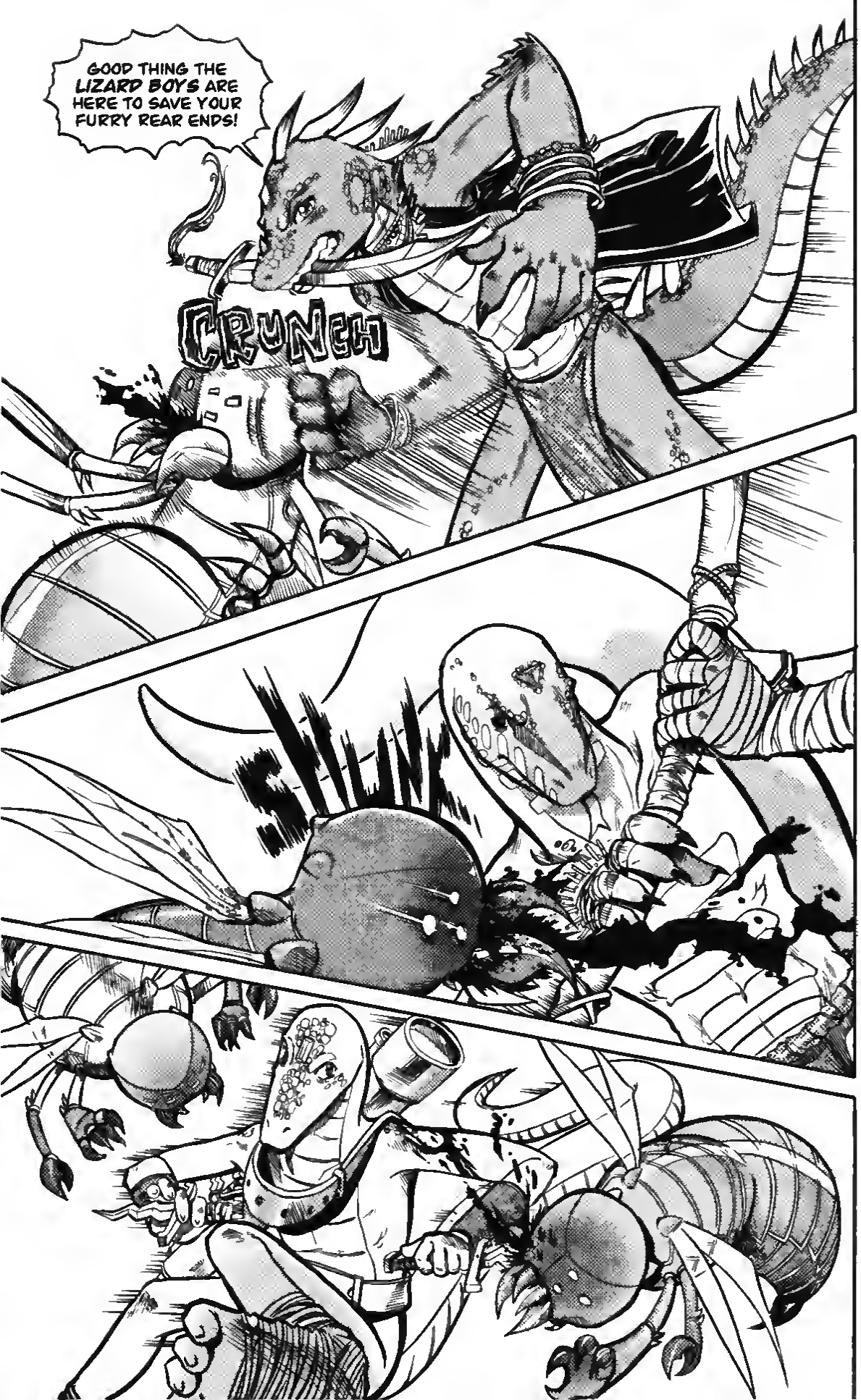
Shink
Chuk kk

HAK-HAK-HAK! WELC-C-COME TO OUR SECRET STOCK-K-KPILE OF SUGAR!
WHY?
WHY TAKE CONTROL OF THE FACTORY? SO MANY INNOCENT FURMEN DIED...BUT YOU HAVE SO MUCH SUGAR. YOU DON'T NEED IT!
THIS IS NOT ABOUT SUPPLY. SUGAR IS OUR RIGHT! BUT WE WOULD NOT EXPECT A NONBELIEVER TO UNDERSTAND SUCH HOLY MATTERS.
OPEN HIM UP AND LET HIM TASTE GOD. PRAISE THE HIVE!

SAMA! PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER IN THE ANCIENT GESTURE. USE YOUR MAMMAL MAGIC!
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M DOING IT RIGHT...
WAAA!
DOWN, DOWN, DOWN! DIE, DIE, DIE!

PROTECK-K-KT! YOU'LL NEVER REACH THE DUNE CAVES ALIVE!
SQUONK!
I CAN'T GET THIS THING TO WORK! MUST BE THE SAND.
THOK
M-MAYBE I SHOULDA STAYED BACK IN THE JELLYWORM...
I'M SO...SO TIRED.
USING ANIMAL MAGIC REQUIRES LIFE ENERGY. IF YOU USE TOO MUCH, YOU GET TOTALLY WIPED.
MAN! THERE'S GOT TO BE A TRICK TO BEAT THESE DUDES.
KHRUUU

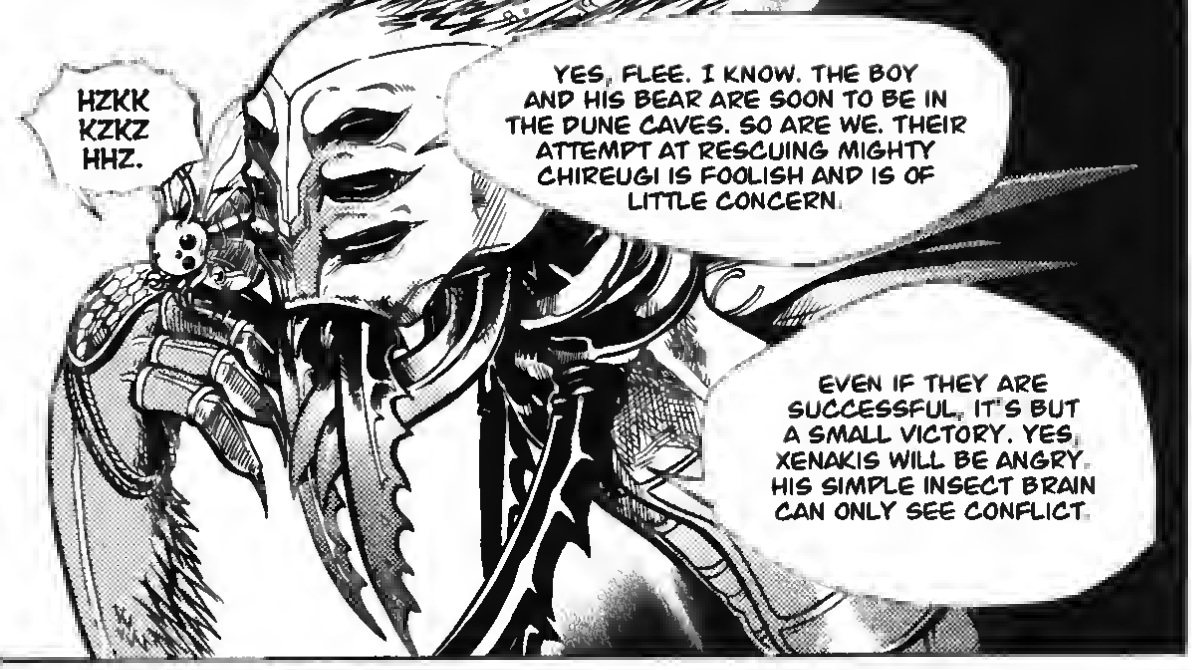
SWOOSH
SHOOM
LOTSA TRICKS IN THE SAND SEA. LOTSA TRAPS, TOO.
Wha?
CRACK
THE FURMEN WANT TO FIND SOME TRICKS.

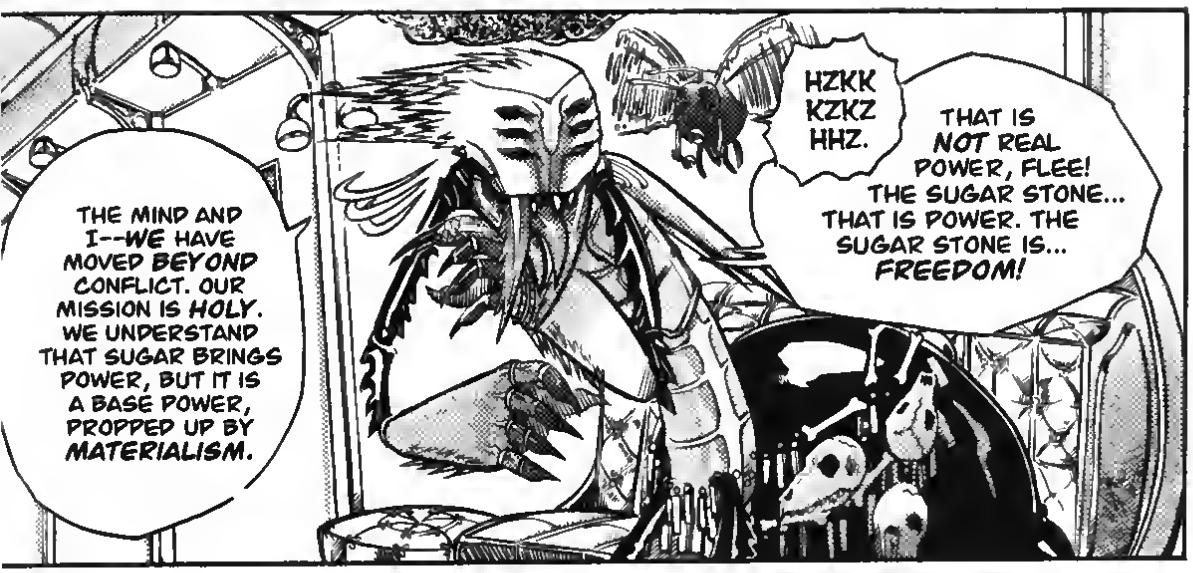

GOOD THING THE LIZARD BOYS ARE HERE TO SAVE YOUR FURRY REAR ENDS!
CRUNCH

Shii
Boom

NOW SCRAM!
YOU FIGHT WELL. WE COULD USE SOME SKILLED WARRIORS. WE'RE PLANNING A RESCUE.
WE ARE NOT FOR HIRE. LOOK AROUND YOU--THE SAND SEA MAY SEEM EMPTY, BUT IT IS FILLED WITH LIFE, HIDDEN AWAY.
WE ARE GUARDIANS, NOT WARLORDS.

UM, EXCUSE ME, BUT I READ SOMEWHERE THAT INSURGENTS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE I.O.N.R. AND, WELL, I THOUGHT YOU FELLAS COULD--
WE'RE NOT WAR-MAKERS--WE'RE SEARCHING FOR THE SUGAR STONE SO I CAN RETURN TO MY WORLD AND HEAL MY DAD. WE'VE AGREED TO HELP THE BROTHERHOOD OF RATS, TO FIND AND FREE THE ONE OF THEM CALLED MIGHTY CHIREUGI.
YEAH. WHAT HE SAID.
YOU ARE STRANGE--NOT FURMEN, NOT LIZARD. MAYBE WE CAN HELP.
WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE INSECT OCCUPIED NORTHERN REGION. TO US, IT IS THE ONCE-GREAT CITY OF KOSMIRA. THE INSECTS HAVE TURNED ITS GREAT WALLS AND ARCHES INTO PILES OF RUBBLE.
COME AND REST IN OUR CAMP.
LET US SHARE SOME SUGAR AND DISCUSS...
...HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER.

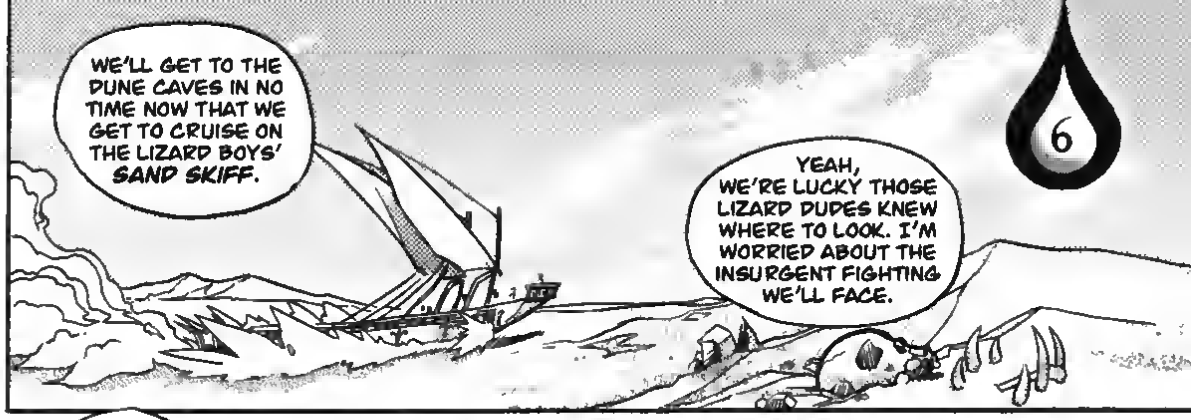

HZKK KZKZ HHZ.
YES, FLEE. I KNOW. THE BOY AND HIS BEAR ARE SOON TO BE IN THE DUNE CAVES. SO ARE WE. THEIR ATTEMPT AT RESCUING MIGHTY CHIREUGI IS FOOLISH AND IS OF LITTLE CONCERN.
EVEN IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL, IT'S BUT A SMALL VICTORY. YES, XENAKIS WILL BE ANGRY. HIS SIMPLE INSECT BRAIN CAN ONLY SEE CONFLICT.


THE MIND AND I--WE HAVE MOVED BEYOND CONFLICT. OUR MISSION IS HOLY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUGAR BRINGS POWER, BUT IT IS A BASE POWER, PROPPED UP BY MATERIALISM.
HZKK KZKZ HHZ.
THAT IS NOT REAL POWER, FLEE! THE SUGAR STONE... THAT IS POWER. THE SUGAR STONE IS... FREEDOM!

I WILL BE FREE... I WILL BE FREE...
YCKRCUNKCRNCNKN

MORE SUGAR! MORE SUGAR!
Noooo.
IT IS FUNNY-- A FURMEN REJEC-C-CTING THE THING IT LOVES THE MOST. HAK-HAK-HAK.
DO NOT FIGHT. ENJOY IT. THE ROOM IS YOUR ONLY FREEDOM BEFORE THE C-C-CLOUD ENDS YOUR LIFE.
...I CAN SEE IT...

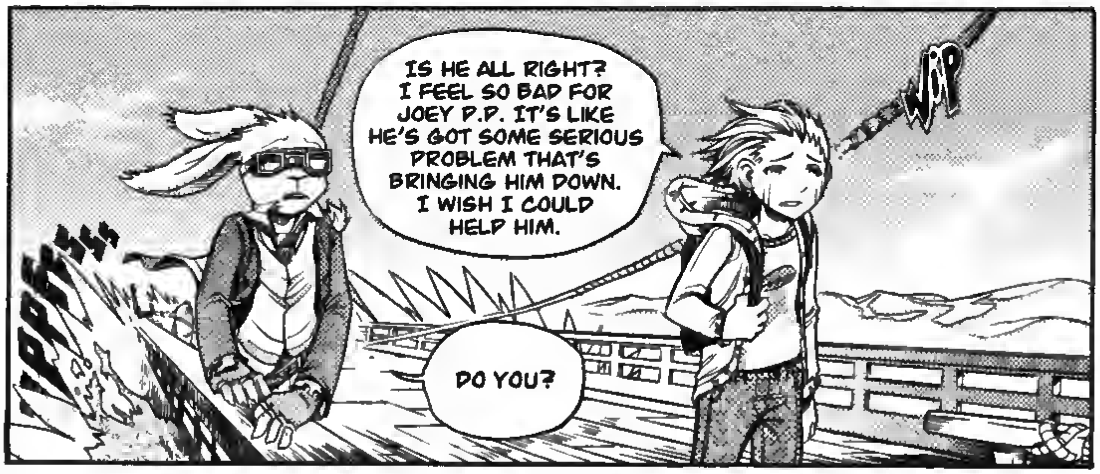
THE SUGAR STONE... IT HAS EMERGED...


WE'LL GET TO THE DUNE CAVES IN NO TIME NOW THAT WE GET TO CRUISE ON THE LIZARD BOYS' SAND SKIFF.
YEAH, WE'RE LUCKY THOSE LIZARD DUDES KNEW WHERE TO LOOK. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE INSURGENT FIGHTING WE'LL FACE.

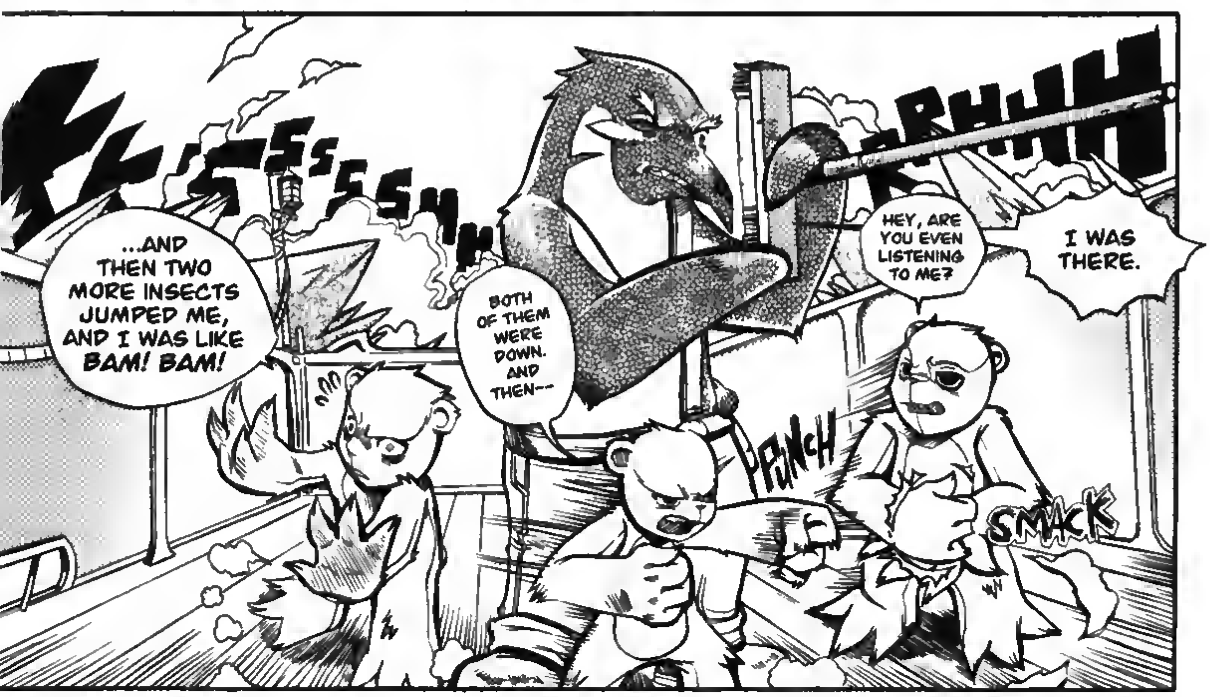
HOPEFULLY THERE WON'T BE ANY FIGHTIN'! I MEAN MAYBE WE CAN JUST HOP IN, DO A LITTLE RESCUE BUSINESS, AND GET RIGHT BACK OUT. HOW ABOUT IT?
UNLIKELY. IT'LL NEVER BE THAT EASY. ESPECIALLY SINCE SAMA'S WITH US. THINGS SEEM TO BE GETTING... WORSE.
IF THE CLOUD IS AFTER HIM, THE CLOUD WILL GET HIM.
SHHHH

...DO YOU REALLY THINK WE SHOULD BE KEEPIN' SECRETS FROM SAMA?
WE'RE DOING WHAT WE CAN TO HELP HIM FIND THE SUGAR STONE. HE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING. HE'S IN UNDERTOWN FOR HIMSELF, NOT FOR US. NOT FOR ME.

PPFFF
GUYS! CAN YOU BELIEVE WE'RE GOING SO FAST?
BUT...


IS HE ALL RIGHT? I FEEL SO BAD FOR JOEY P.P. IT'S LIKE HE'S GOT SOME SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT'S BRINGING HIM DOWN. I WISH I COULD HELP HIM.
VIP
DO YOU?

OKAY, DUDES. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU TOLD US ABOUT THE DUNE CAVES--AND I GOT A PLAN WORKED OUT.


...AND THEN TWO MORE INSECTS JUMPED ME, AND I WAS LIKE BAM! BAM!
BOTH OF THEM WERE DOWN. AND THEN--
HEY, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?
I WAS THERE.
PUNCH
SMACK

YEAH, I KNOW. BUT YOU SEEM PRE-OCCUPIED-- THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU THE HIGHLIGHTS.
DO YOU REALLY NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT BEFORE?
TAP TAP
WHAT YOU GETTING AT, PENGUIN?
HAVE YOU GOT TO THE POINT WHERE YOU REMEMBER THE BELL?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
GLRK
PENGUINS KEEP TO THEMSELVES-- THEY ALWAYS HAVE. PICK UP THE JUNK, TAKE IT TO THE JUNKYARD. THAT'S WHAT WE DO.
ALONG THE WAY, WE'VE HEARD STUFF. AND WE REMEMBER. THERE'S A SPELL ON THE WHOLE LAND, MAKES FOLKS FORGET. I FIGHT AGAINST IT.
SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED, DIDN'T IT?
YEAH, 'FRAID SO. IT INVOLVED THESE MONSTERS ...

"...THE MOST HIDEOUS AND FRIGHTENING CREATURES IMAGINABLE. DRINGLINGS, THEY WERE CALLED. PEOPLE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THEM."
"MY MOM TOLD ME THAT IF I WEREN'T GOOD, THE DRINGLINGS WOULD COME AND EAT ME. I IMAGINE EVEN MOTHER INSECTS TELL THEIR BABY BUGS THE SAME THING."
BUT THAT AIN'T WHAT DRINGLINGS USED TO DO. THEY DON'T EAT PENGUINS. THEY ONLY ATE ONE THING...
TEDDY BEAR HEARTS.
ARE YOU...SURE THEY'RE GONE FROM HERE? I MEAN, NOT THAT I'M AFRAID OR NOTHING.
ABSOLUTELY. THEY ALL DIED OUT WHEN THE TEDDY BEARS LEFT. THE TEDDY BEAR EXODUS. POOF, THEY WERE GONE. THE ONLY THING LEFT BEHIND WAS A BELL.
BUT THE DRINGLINGS COULDN'T FIND IT. AND NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE MEMORY OF THE DRINGLINGS' EVIL SPIRITS, WHICH HAUNT THE TEDDY BEARS' ABANDONED HOMES IN THE GHOST GROVE.

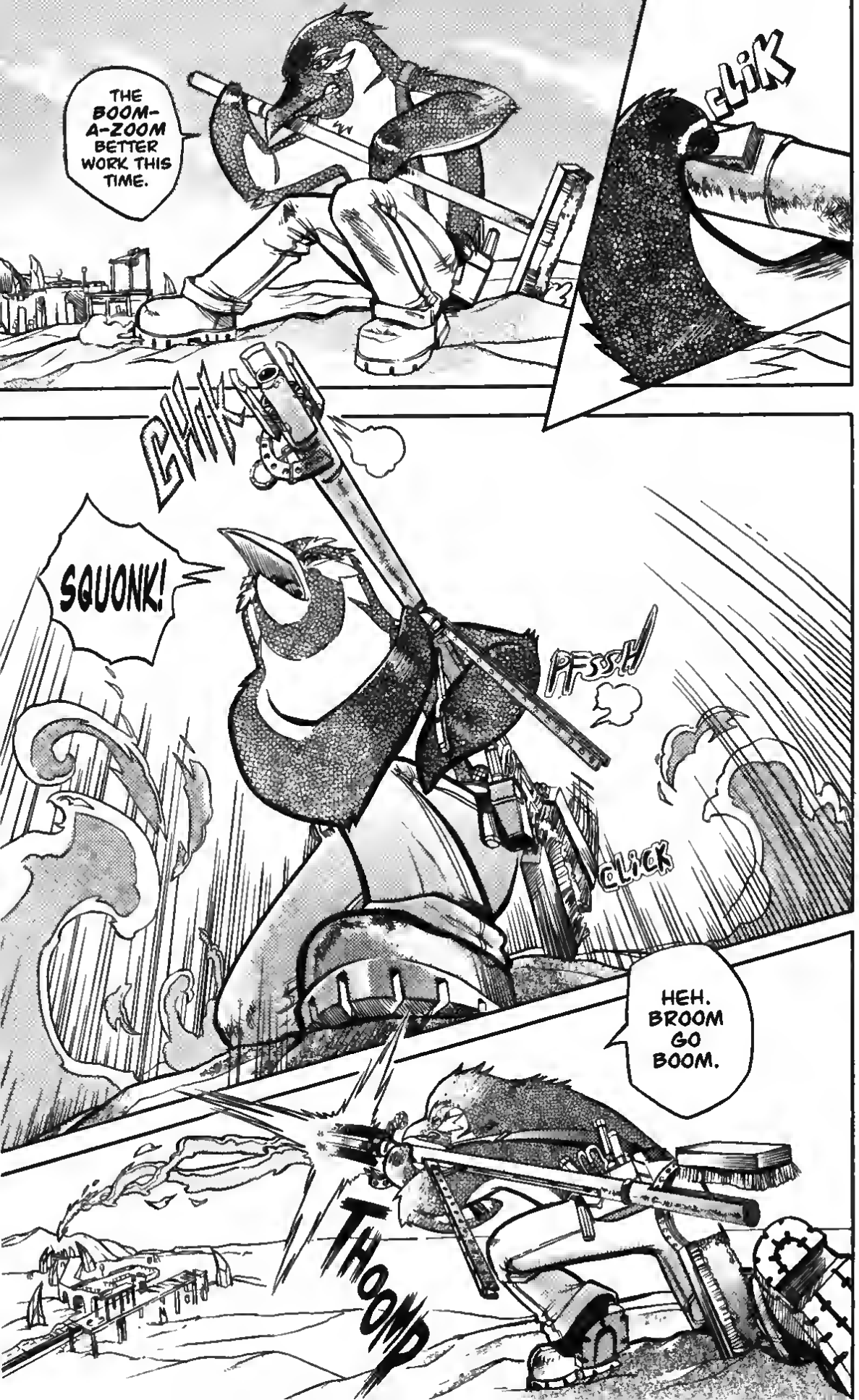
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THIS BE-FORE?
TWIST
THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING. IF YOU FIND OUT TOO MUCH TOO SOON...IT COULD JEOPARDIZE EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.

WE'RE HERE. IT'S RESCUE TIME!
REMEMBER, EDDIE... SOMETIMES SECRETS ARE GOOD.

I'VE SEEN IT...
IT EXISTS...
THE C-C-CLOUD WILL BE PLEASED. THIS RAT HAS SUFFERED AND SUFFERED. GET THE C-C-CUTLERY SO THE C-C-CLOUD CAN C-C-CUT HIS FURRY HEAD OFF.

FIRE!
HUH?

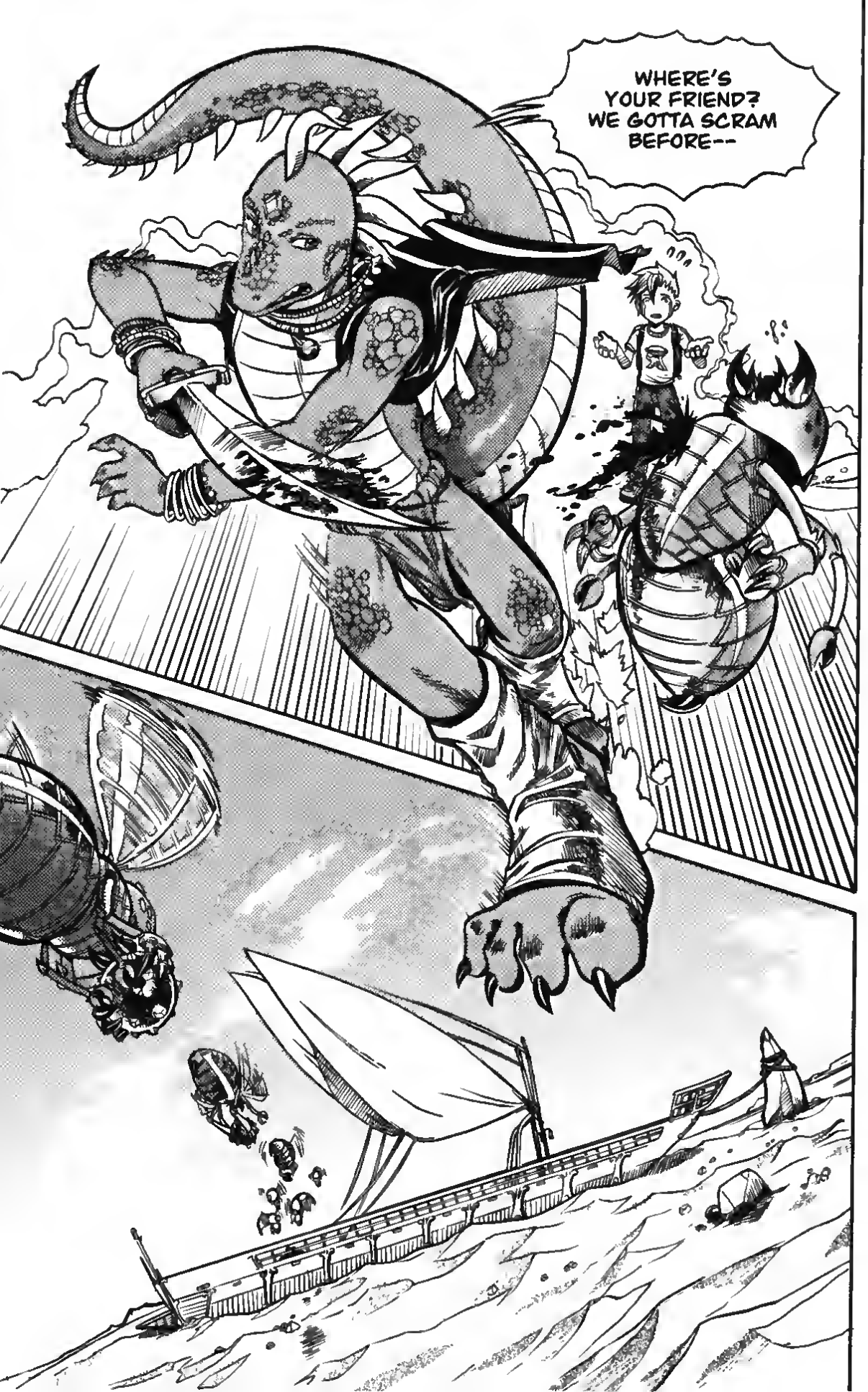
OH NO! INTRUDERS!
HURRY!
A TEDDY BEAR! IT CAN'T BE! I KNEW I SAW ONE!
GET HIM OUT OF HERE! I'LL COVER YOU!
DISTRAC-TION ACTION, BABY!
SKIDD
COME ON, BROOM...WE NEED THAT EXPLOSION TO ESCAPE


THE BOOM-A-ZOOM BETTER WORK THIS TIME.
CLIK
CLIK
SQUONK!
PFSSH
CLICK
HEH. BROOM GO BOOM.
THOOMP

IT'S A TRICK! A TRAP!
OUTSIDE... WE MUST FIGHT THEM OFF. THE C-C-CLOUD IS ALMOST HERE!
QUITTERS! DON'T RUN AWAY YET!
GRAB
GOT YOU!

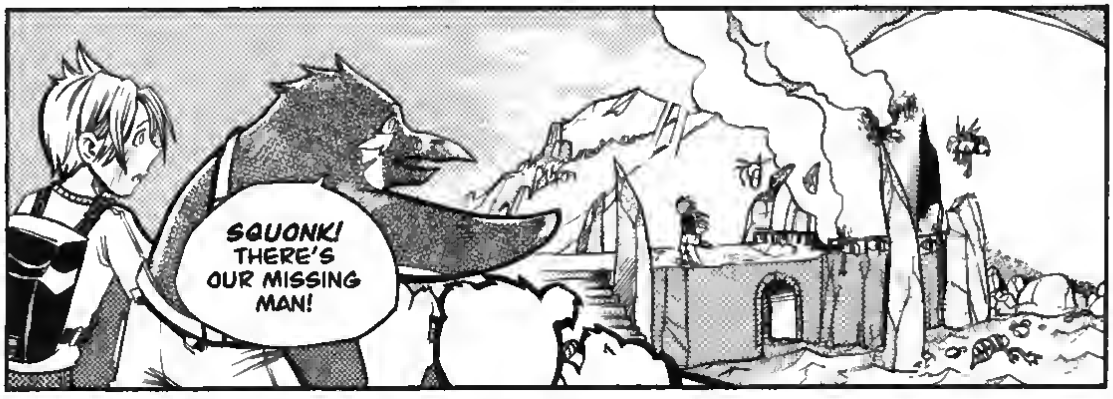
BRANCA...
RIP
TICK
BOOM
HELLO, JOEY P.P.

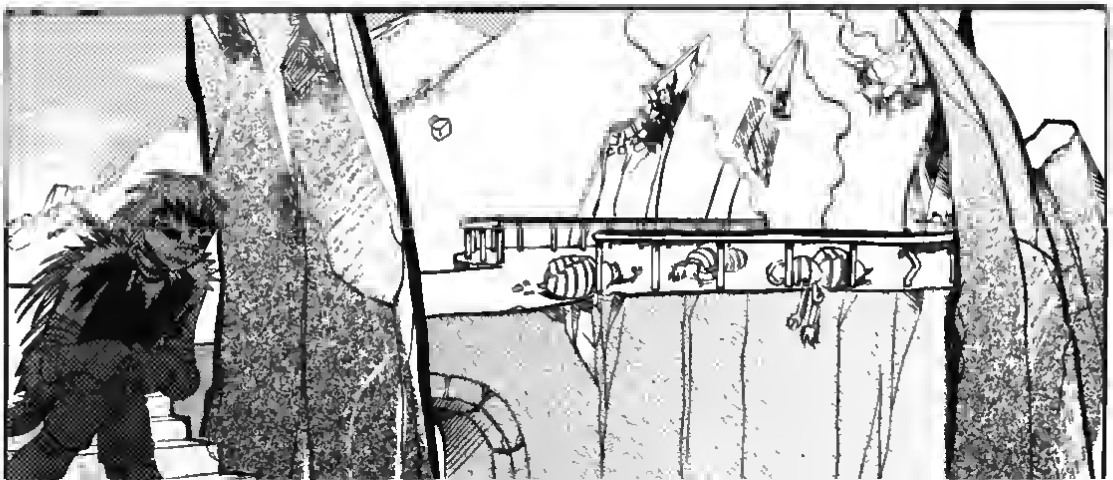
KRAK
KRAK
SIZZLE
BOOM
THK
MIGHTY'S PRETTY ROUGH, SAMA, BUT I THINK HE'LL BE OKAY, SO CAN WE PLEASE GET THE HECK OUTTA HERE?
JOEY P.P....
HE SHOULD HAVE COME OUT OF THE CAVE A LONG TIME AGO.


WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND? WE GOTTA SCRAM BEFORE--

KA-BOOM
OH BROTHER! THERE GOES OUR GETAWAY RIDE!
NOT TO WORRY, SAMA.
LIZARD BOYS HAVE BACK-UP PLAN! GILA SPEEDERS.
ugh

FSSHHH
FOOSH
NO. WAY.


SQUONK! THERE'S OUR MISSING MAN!

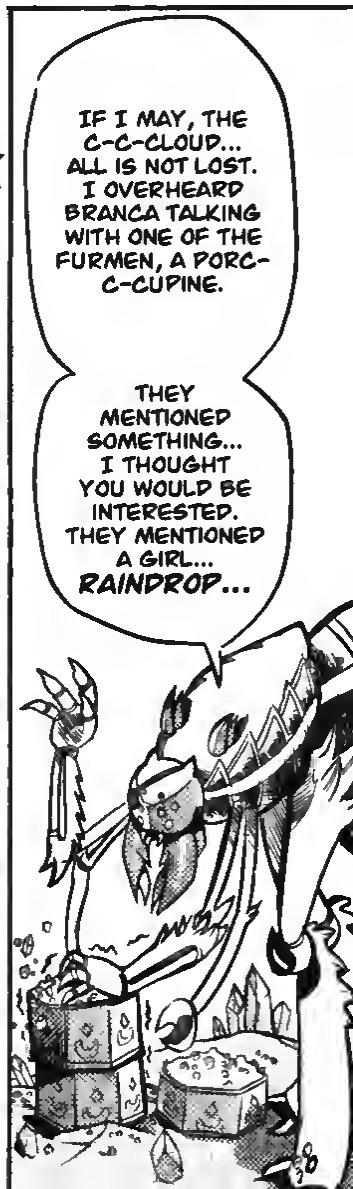


WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
TAKE YOUR WOUNDED TO SAFETY.
WHERE WERE YA? WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING. IT WAS NOTHING.
YOU ARE A BRAVE ONE, MR. SAMA. WE WISH WE HAD MORE TIME WITH YOU, BUT THE EASTERN WIND CRIES OUT THAT OUR MOMENT TOGETHER MUST BE CUT SHORT.
SLAP!
WE'LL STAY BEHIND AND FINISH OFF THE SAND INSECTS. WE'RE USED TO IT.
HOPEFULLY YOU'LL HAVE A PROPER HEAD START BEFORE THE CLOUD COMES AFTER YOU.
REMEMBER US! WE HOPE YOU FIND YOUR SUGAR STONE, AND MAY YOUR DAD BE SAVED BY ITS POWER!
KSSSHH

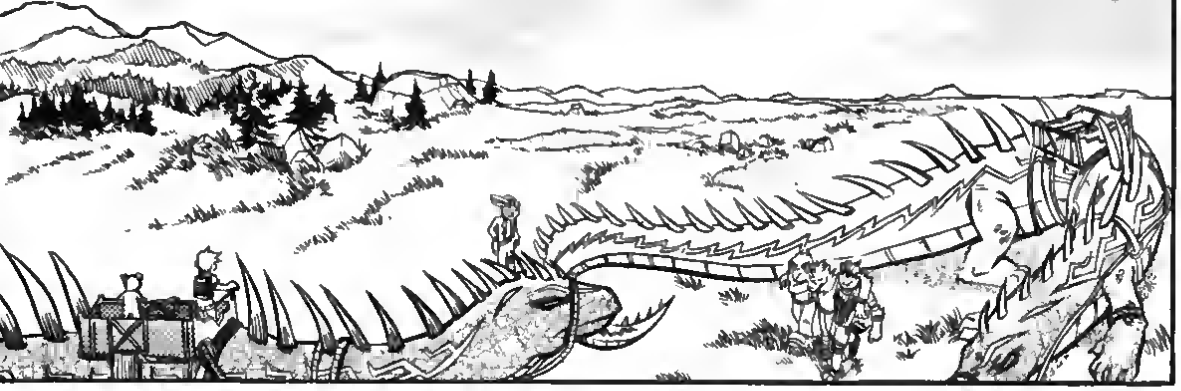
7

HOW MUCH OF THE SUGAR STOCKPILE HAS BEEN LOST?
NOT MUCH, THE C-C-CLOUD. THE FIRE WAS SMALL...A DIVERSION. WE WERE ABLE TO CONTAIN IT QUICKLY.

THAT APPEARS TO BE THE *ONLY* THING YOU WERE ABLE TO DO. XENAKIS WILL BE FURIOUS.
INCOMPETENT INSECTS. LOOK AT THIS MESS!


IF I MAY, THE C-C-CLOUD... ALL IS NOT LOST. I OVERHEARD BRANCA TALKING WITH ONE OF THE FURMEN, A PORC-C-CUPINE.
THEY MENTIONED SOMETHING... I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED. THEY MENTIONED A GIRL... *RAINDROP*...

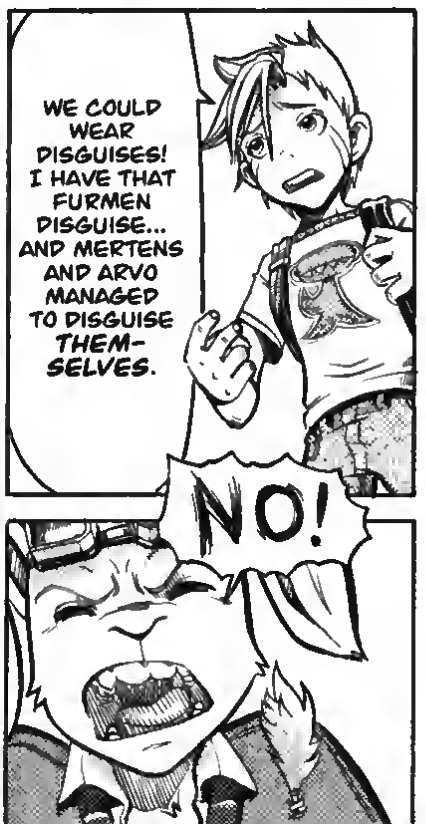
REALLY? HA HA HA HA!
MAYBE THINGS WORKED OUT BETTER HERE THAN I HAD HOPED.
DO NOT TELL XENAKIS ABOUT THE BEAR! THIS IS OUR HOLY SECRET, IKEDA!
MAY I SPEAK FREELY?
THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE. I...I SAW A TEDDY BEAR. HERE...IN UNDERTOWN.
THE BOY AND BEAR...WE MUST CHASE! THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A HEAD START! THEY MUST PAY--
NO. YOU TWO, GO WITH BRANCA. HE WILL SHOW YOU THE PATH YOU MUST FOLLOW.
I WILL RETURN TO THE SUGAR FACTORY. THE BOY WILL COME TO ME.



YAWN!
EVERY TIME WE HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE, WE HITCH A RIDE WITH SOMETHING THAT CAN'T TAKE US ALL THE WAY.
AND HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET ANYWHERE IF WE HAVE TO CARRY MIGHTY?
WE CAN TAKE THE SUBWAY... IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.

HEY NOW, DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT IT!
WHAT'S THE JOKE? LET'S DO IT. WE JUST STARTED WALKING, AND MY LEGS ARE KILLING ME.

NOBODY TAKES THE SUBWAY ANYMORE EXCEPT THE INSECTS.


WE COULD WEAR DISGUISES! I HAVE THAT FURMEN DISGUISE... AND MERTENS AND ARVO MANAGED TO DISGUISE THEM-SELVES.
NO!

WE'RE NOT GOIN' DOWN INTO THE SUBWAY!
SOME BUNNY'S GOT AN ATTITUDE.
YEAH, WELL, I'M AFRAID OF DEPTHS.
EDDIE, GET DOWN FROM THERE!
YOU'RE AFRAID OF EVERYTHING, DUDE.
IF HE WANTS TO GO EXPLORE, LET HIM. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT. WE NEED TO FIND NOBLE CHIREUGI.
AND WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO FIND MY BROTHER?

MIGHTY! YOU'RE OKAY!
GUESS I SHOULD SAY THANK YOU, BUT FIRST...WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, SIR. THE NAME'S EDDIE. IF YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH THE RESCUE YOU RECEIVED RECENTLY, PLEASE CONSIDER A REWARD.
PYONG!
EDDIE!
IT'S OKAY. BEARS. ALWAYS GOOD FOR A LAUGH.
WE MADE A DEAL WITH VERBAL. HE WANTS TO REUNITE THE BROTHERHOOD, AND WE'RE HELPING. IN EXCHANGE, VERBAL SAID THE BROTHERHOOD WOULD HELP GET SAMA HERE BACK HOME.
YEAH, BUT FIRST WE HAVE TO FIND THE SUGAR STONE!
SUGAR STONE? NEVER HEARD OF IT.
oh.

FSH!
FSH
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR BROTHER IS HIDING?
NOBLE CHIREUGI IS AT THE BUTTERFLY TREE. I WENT THERE, TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM TO COME BACK TO THE BROTHERHOOD. BUT HE'S OLD AND FOOLISH.
ON MY WAY HOME, THE INSURGENTS CAPTURED ME. YOU KNOW THE REST.
I REALLY DO NEED TO SAY THANK YOU. YOU GUYS SAVED ME. YOUR BEAR'S RIGHT--THAT DESERVES A REWARD.
PEARLS... HARVESTED FROM THE SALT WATER OF THE CRYING RIVER.
THANK YOU, MIGHTY... BUT WE... WE WOULD REALLY RATHER HAVE YOUR HELP.

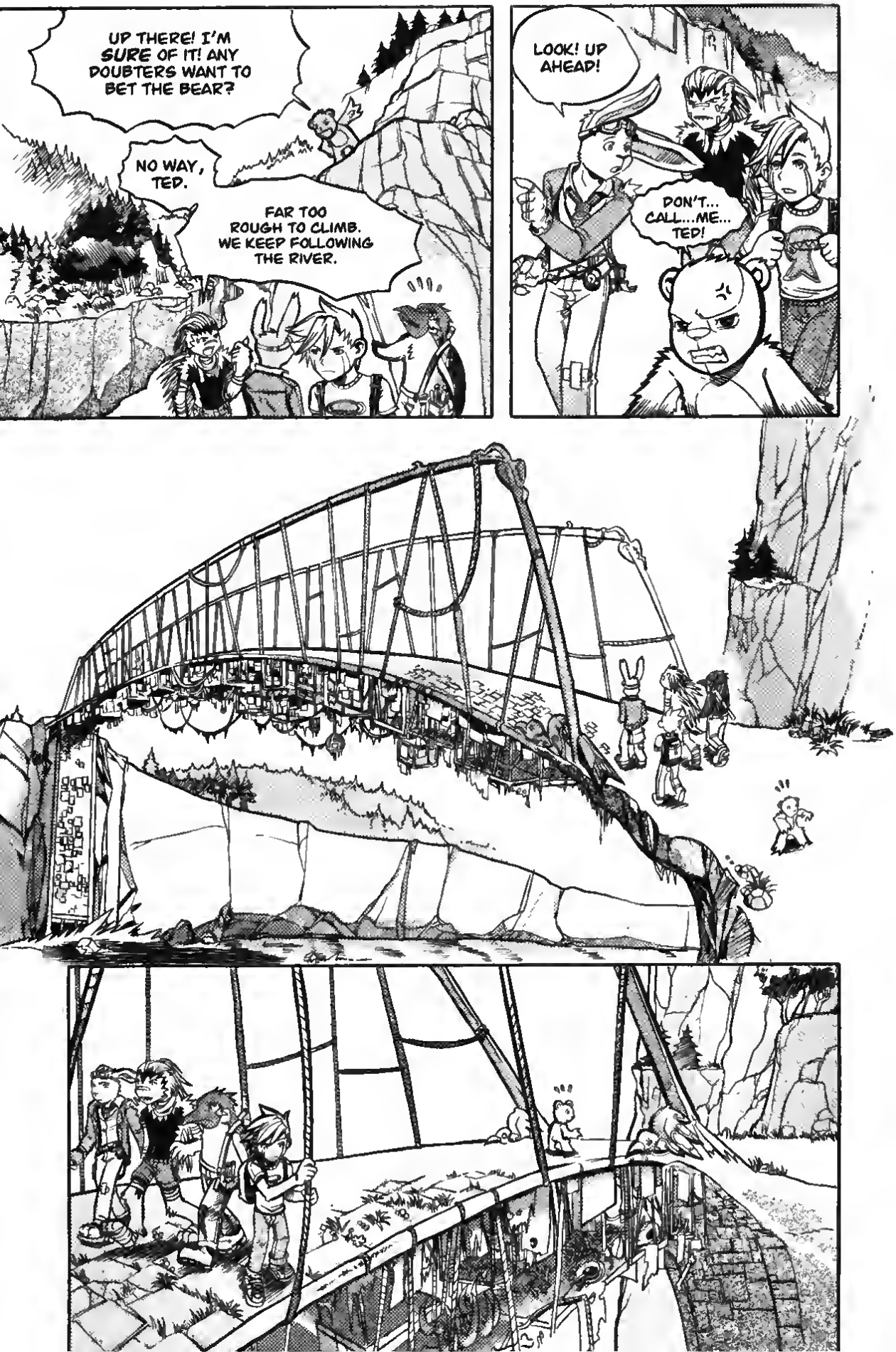
MAYBE NOBLE CAN HELP YOU. I THOUGHT I NEEDED HIS HELP, BUT NOW I SEE THAT VERBAL AND I MUST DO IT ALONE.
WHAT'S THAT, MIGHTY RAT?
WE MUST END THE WAR.
SO LONG! SEE YA!
HE SEEMED REALLY STRANGE. HOW ABOUT IT?
I MUST FIND THE SUGAR STONE.
CONTROL OF UNDER-TOWN WILL SOON BE OURS AND OURS ALONE.

THE BUTTERFLY TREE...THAT'S WHERE *RAINDROP* TOLD ME I NEED TO GO.
HAVE YOU SEEN HER AGAIN?
NO, NOT SINCE WE WERE DOWNTOWN.

GOOD NEWS. WE'VE REACHED THE CRYING RIVER. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW IT UPSTREAM. THE TREE IS AT THE EDGE OF BIRD RIDGE, NEAR THE RIVER'S SOURCE.

GRAB

OH NO...
FUR TINGLING... GETTING A FEELING...MUST CONCENTRATE.. FIND.. SHORT-CUT.
GRUMBLE

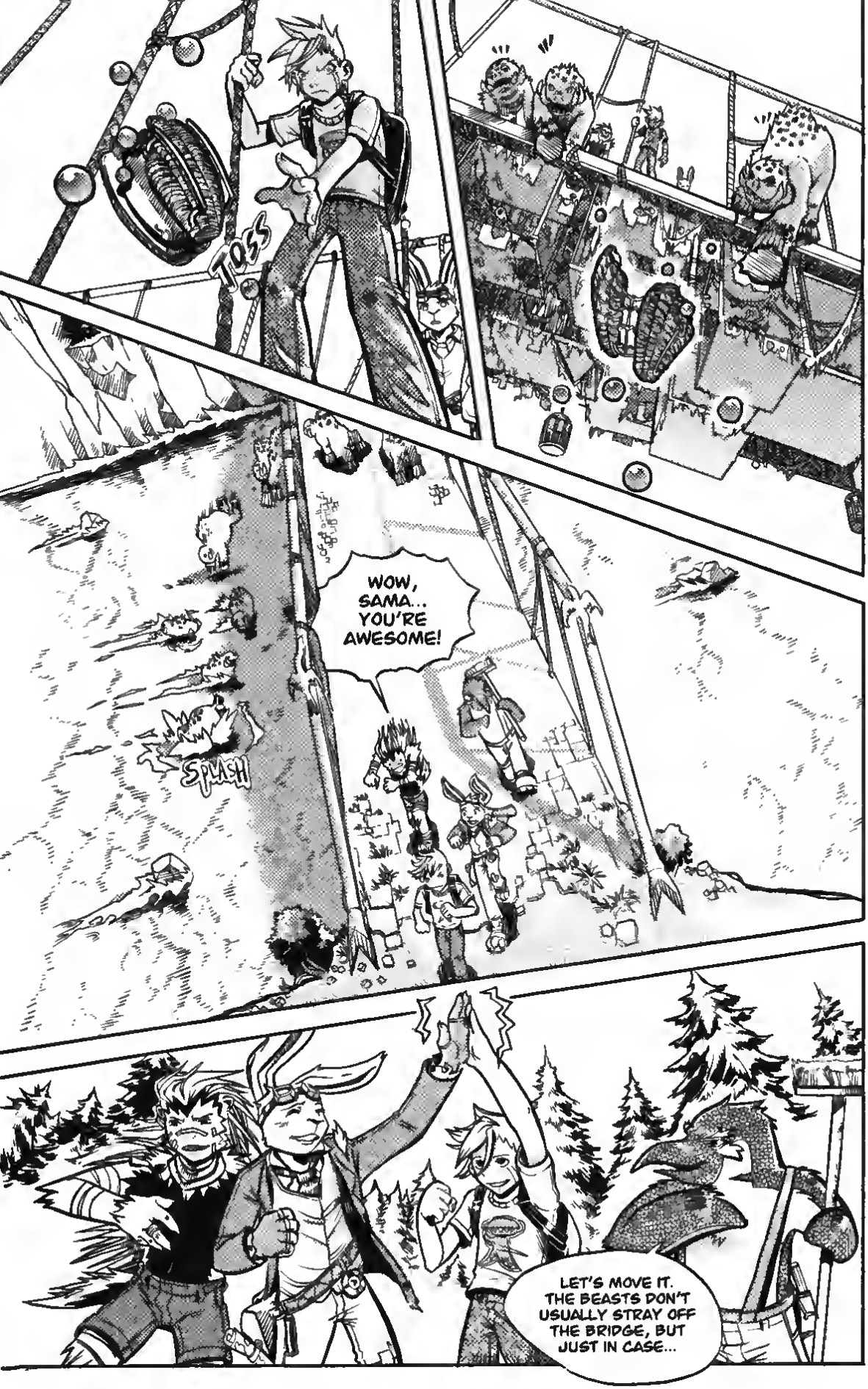

UP THERE! I'M SURE OF IT! ANY DOUBTERS WANT TO BET THE BEAR?
NO WAY, TED.
FAR TOO ROUGH TO CLIMB. WE KEEP FOLLOWING THE RIVER.
LOOK! UP AHEAD!
DON'T... CALL...ME... TED!

GASP!
AH...GUYS, THERE ARE WEIRD ANIMALS ON THE BRIDGE WITH US.
ANY CHANCE THESE ARE FRIENDLY WOODLAND CREATURES?
NO PASS! NO PASS!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
GUESS THAT ANSWERS YER QUESTION.
NO PASS!
BRIDGE BEASTS! I SHOULDA KNOWN ABOUT IT THE MOMENT WE SAW THIS BRIDGE.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SORRY, MR. BEAST. WE'LL JUST TURN RIGHT BACK AROUND--

KRAK!
DON'T WORRY, SAMA. I KNOW THE TEDDY BEAR BELL IS CLOSE.
WHEN I RING IT, I'LL GET THE SUGAR STONE AND COME RIGHT BACK. PROMISE.
SQUONK! THINK BEFORE YOU SHOOT YER MAGIC OFF, JOEY P.P.--THE BRIDGE BEASTS' HOOVES ABSORB MAGIC... YER ONLY MAKING THEM MAD.

YOU WIN, MR. BEAST! WE'RE LEAVING! HOW ABOUT IT?
NO, I THINK WE WILL PASS.
BECAUSE I BET YOU LIKE SHINY, PRETTY THINGS.
SPARKLE
CLICK

SO TIME FOR A SWIM...

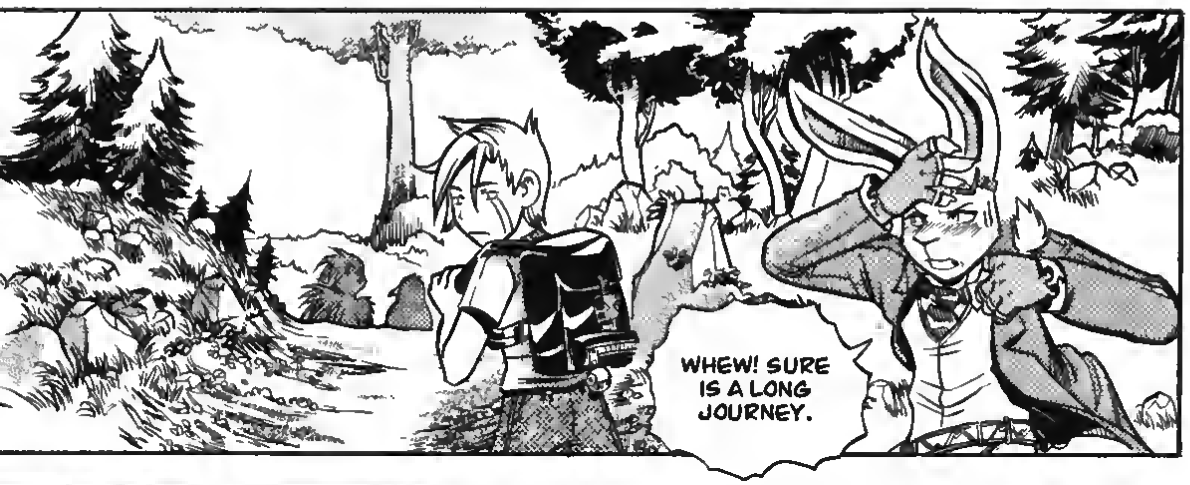

TOSS
WOW, SAMA... YOU'RE AWESOME!
SPLASH
LET'S MOVE IT. THE BEASTS DON'T USUALLY STRAY OFF THE BRIDGE, BUT JUST IN CASE...

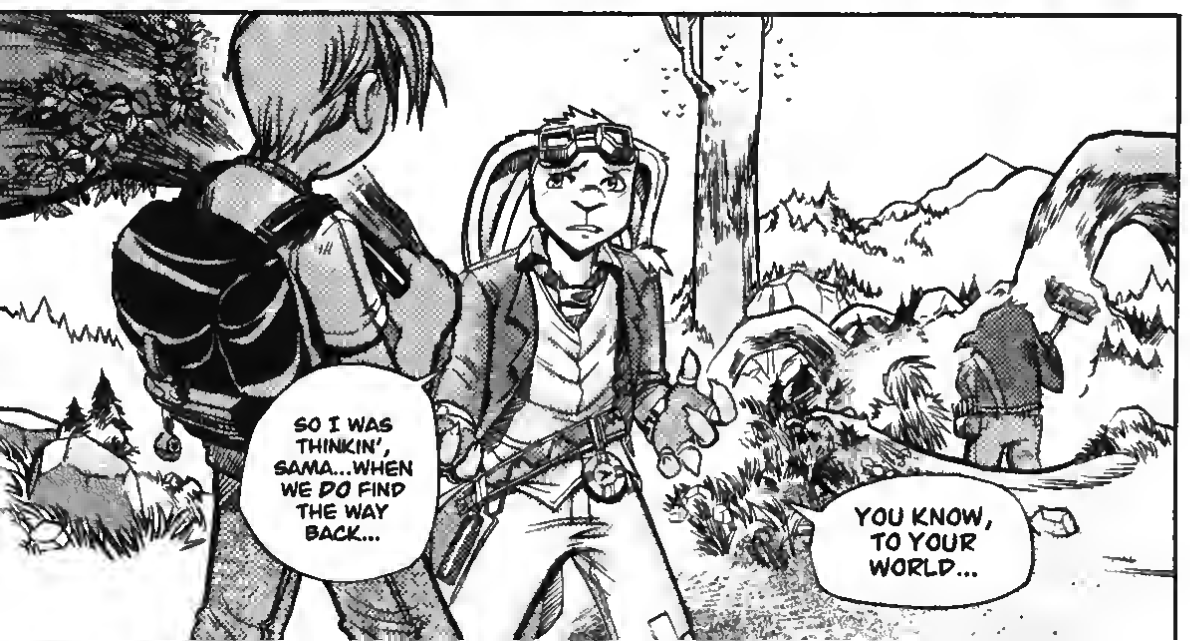
WHOA. WAIT A SECOND. EDDIE? EDDIE!
WHERE'D HE GO?
EDDIE!
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER-- WE SHOULD JUST LET HIM GO.
SHOVE
SAMA, CALM DOWN. WE'LL--
NO, YOU!
BETTER? WHY IS IT BETTER? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YOU CALM DOWN! HE'S MY TEDDY BEAR!
WE'LL GO BACK. I'M SURE HE HASN'T GONE FAR--
OH NO.

KATROPP
KATROPP
KATROPP
KTROPP
KATROPP
MORE! MORE!
SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS PLACE. SOMETHING CALLING ME. I CAN HEAR IT.
IS THIS MY HOME?
GRRR

THAT WAS CLOSE! I THINK... THINK WE LOST 'EM.
...LOST...
I WANNA GO HOME. I'M TIRED OF THIS PLACE. I MISS MY MOM. I MISS MY DAD.
DADDY...
COME ON, SAMA. WE STILL HAVE EACH OTHER. I'M SURE EDDIE WILL FIND HIS WAY BACK. HOW ABOUT IT?

YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY HOME. I JUST KNOW ABOUT IT.

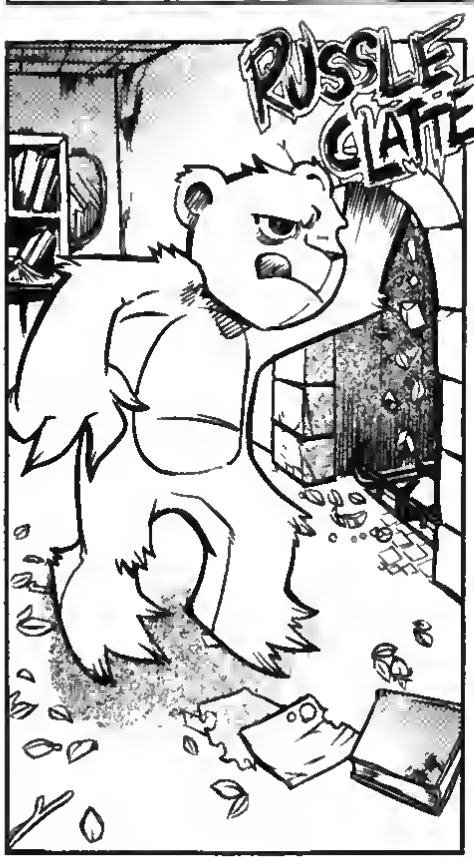

WHEW! SURE IS A LONG JOURNEY.


SO I WAS THINKIN', SAMA...WHEN WE DO FIND THE WAY BACK...
YOU KNOW, TO YOUR WORLD...

"...COULD YOU TAKE ME WITH YA? I'M TIRED OF THIS PLACE TOO."

I KNOW IT'S HERE SOME-WHERE.

WHERE ARE YOU?


RUSSLE CLATTER

JACKPOT.

AT LAST! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THE BUTTERFLY TREE... I MEAN, UP CLOSE LIKE THIS.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TO IT--SOMETHING THIS BIG, ALL YOU CAN SEE ARE THE DETAILS, DUDE.
8
WHAT I REALLY ALWAYS WANTED TO DO IS CLIMB TO THE TOP.
WOULDN'T YOU JUST BE SCARED?
NO... NO, I WOULDN'T.
GOOD LUCK. PEOPLE IN UNDERTOWN HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REACH THE TOP OF THIS TREE FOR AGES. NOBODY HAS. SOME SAY IT DOESN'T HAVE A TOP.
NO WAY. IT HAS A TOP. I BELIEVE IT.
I HEARD IT LEADS TO ANOTHER WORLD.
MAYBE IT'S YOUR WORLD IT LEADS TO, SAMA?
I HAD A SHOE ONCE.

APPEAR
IT NEVER TOOK ME ANYWHERE I WANTED TO GO, THAT SHOE. IT WAS ALWAYS MY FEET THAT DID THE WALKING.
DON'T CONFUSE THE DOORWAY WITH THE WORLD TO WHICH IT LEADS.
I AM NOBLE CHIREUGI.
COULDN'T HAVE GUESSED THAT.
BOW
YOU MUST BE SAMA.
DO YOU KNOW ME?
I KNOW OF YOU. I KNOW SOME OF YOUR STORY SO FAR, SOME OF YOUR STORY YET TO COME.
I KNOW OF THE SUGAR STONE. AND I HAVE ANSWERS TO SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS.
FINALLY. WHERE IS IT? PLEASE...WHERE IS THE SUGAR STONE?
IT--
I MUST HIDE! YOU MUST LEAVE!

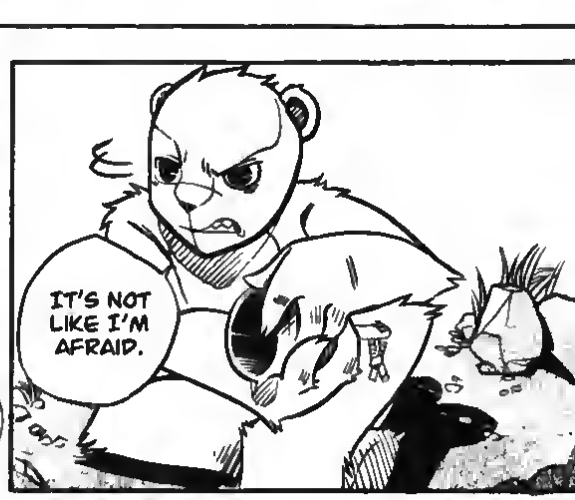
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
SHING
LEAVE NOW!
PLEASE, RUN FROM HERE...FAR FROM HERE!
VANISH
NOBLE?
COME BACK!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SUGAR STONE?
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME?

WHAT HAP-PENED?
SAMA.
UH, SAMA...
WHERE DID HE GO?
SAMA!
WHAT?!
I'M SORRY.
HALT!
YOU C-C-CANNOT ESC-C-CAPE. WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED.

TO THE SUGAR FAC-C-CTORY FOR ALL OF YOU! THE C-C-CLOUD WILL MAK-K-KE YOU TALK-K-K...AND THEN C-C-CUT OFF YOUR HEADS!
SKUD
YES! THEN WE WILL DRINK-K-K YOUR BLOOD!
PRAISE THE HIVE!
LET ME GO!
THANK-K-K YOU, JOEY P.P. HERE IS THE SUGAR...AN EXTREMELY LARGE AMOUNT, AS YOU REQUESTED. THE C-C-CLOUD THANKS YOU.
LET GO! THIS IS STUPID... SOME KIND OF MISTAKE. JOEY P.P.--YOU'RE OUR FRIEND! WE ARE A TEAM... WHAT ABOUT THE JUNKYARD GANG PLEDGE?
PORC-C-CUPINE... WHERE'S THE TEDDY BEAR?
I HATE THE CLOUD--I DID THIS FOR ME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM--HE'S GONE.

DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M WAITING FOR.

IT'S JUST A BELL.
A VERY NICE BELL, IN FACT. HANDCRAFTED BY TEDDY BEARS.


IT'S NOT LIKE I'M AFRAID.

KICK
I'M NOT AFRAID, YOU HEAR ME?!

MIGHT AS WELL JUST RING IT.

CLANG
SUCRE

WHAT HAVE I DONE?
GET IT AWAY FROM ME!
SPLASH
I'M SORRY, SAMA.
THAT'S IT, SWEET LITTLE TEDDY BEAR.
RUN.

WELCOME TO THE SUGAR FACTORY.
LET ME GO!

I KNOW A LOT ABOUT YOU. INSECT MAGIC IS THE MOST POWERFUL MAGIC IN UNDERTOWN--WITH IT, MY MIND HAS GROWN STRONG, POWERFUL.
BZZZZBZZ
I CAN SEE GREAT DISTANCES. I CAN READ THE THOUGHTS OF OTHERS.
I CAN DO ANYTHING!
COME TO ME...
YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE SUGAR STONE. WELL, SO AM I.
NO...
PULL
TAP TAP
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK-- I CAN HEAR INSIDE YOU.

YES, I KNOW YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT YOUR...DADDY. TOO BAD HE'S GOING TO DIE.
I'LL KILL YOU! LET ME GO! I HATE YOU I HATE YOU I HATE YOU!
SMACK
IT'S A TRICK. THE CLOUD IS TRYIN' TO WIND YOU UP, SAMA. DON'T GIVE IN. WE'LL FIND A--
SHUT UP, LITTLE BUNNY. SHOULDN'T YOU BE DYING ON THE FRONT LINES, FIGHTING YOUR STUPID FURMEN WAR?
LET ME GO!
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
WHERE IS THE SUGAR STONE?! I WANT IT! I WANT IT NOW!

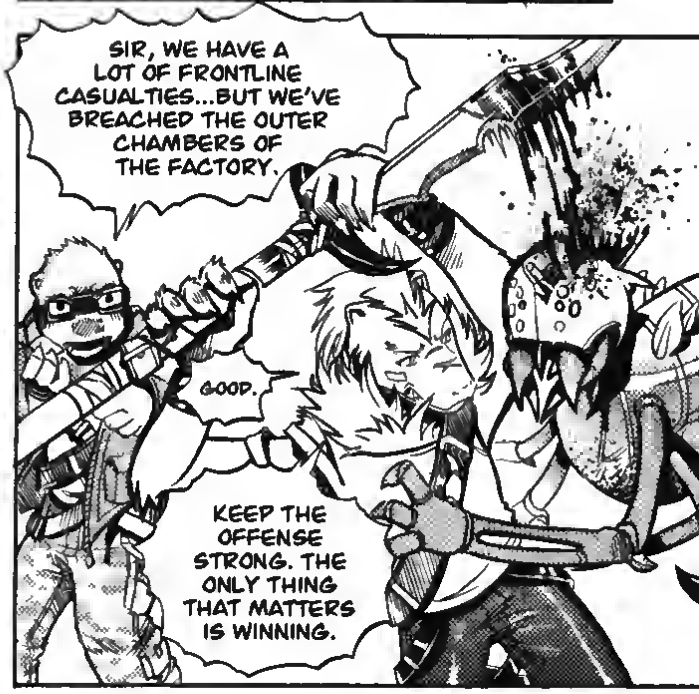
NO? YOU WON'T TALK?
AND YOU HIDE THE ANSWER IN YOUR HEART WHERE I CAN'T PRY IT OUT AND SNATCH IT.
WELL, I FOUND SOMEONE... SOMEONE WHO MIGHT MAKE YOU MORE WILLING TO COOPERATE.
EDDIE!

HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA

9
CRASH
AN ATTACK?
THESE INSECTS CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT.
YOU! YOU AND I ARE NOT DONE.
YOU TOLD ME TO GO TO THE BUTTERFLY TREE...BUT IT WAS A TRAP! YOU LIED TO ME!
WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?

THE BUTTERFLY TREE WAS THE FIRST STEP, AND THE BUTTERFLY TREE WILL BE THE LAST STEP.
DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE YOUR JOURNEY, SAMA. AND DO NOT EXPECT EVERY STEP TO BE EASY.
IN FACT, DO NOT EXPECT ANYTHING TO BE EASY.
KABOOM
PINK
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?
FURMEN, ATTACK!
TMP
TRMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

XENAKIS, THE FACTORY IS SURROUNDED. WE SHOULD ESCAPE--
NO! WE FIGHT. THIS WAR IS NOT OVER!


SIR, WE HAVE A LOT OF FRONTLINE CASUALTIES...BUT WE'VE BREACHED THE OUTER CHAMBERS OF THE FACTORY.
GOOD.
KEEP THE OFFENSE STRONG. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS WINNING.

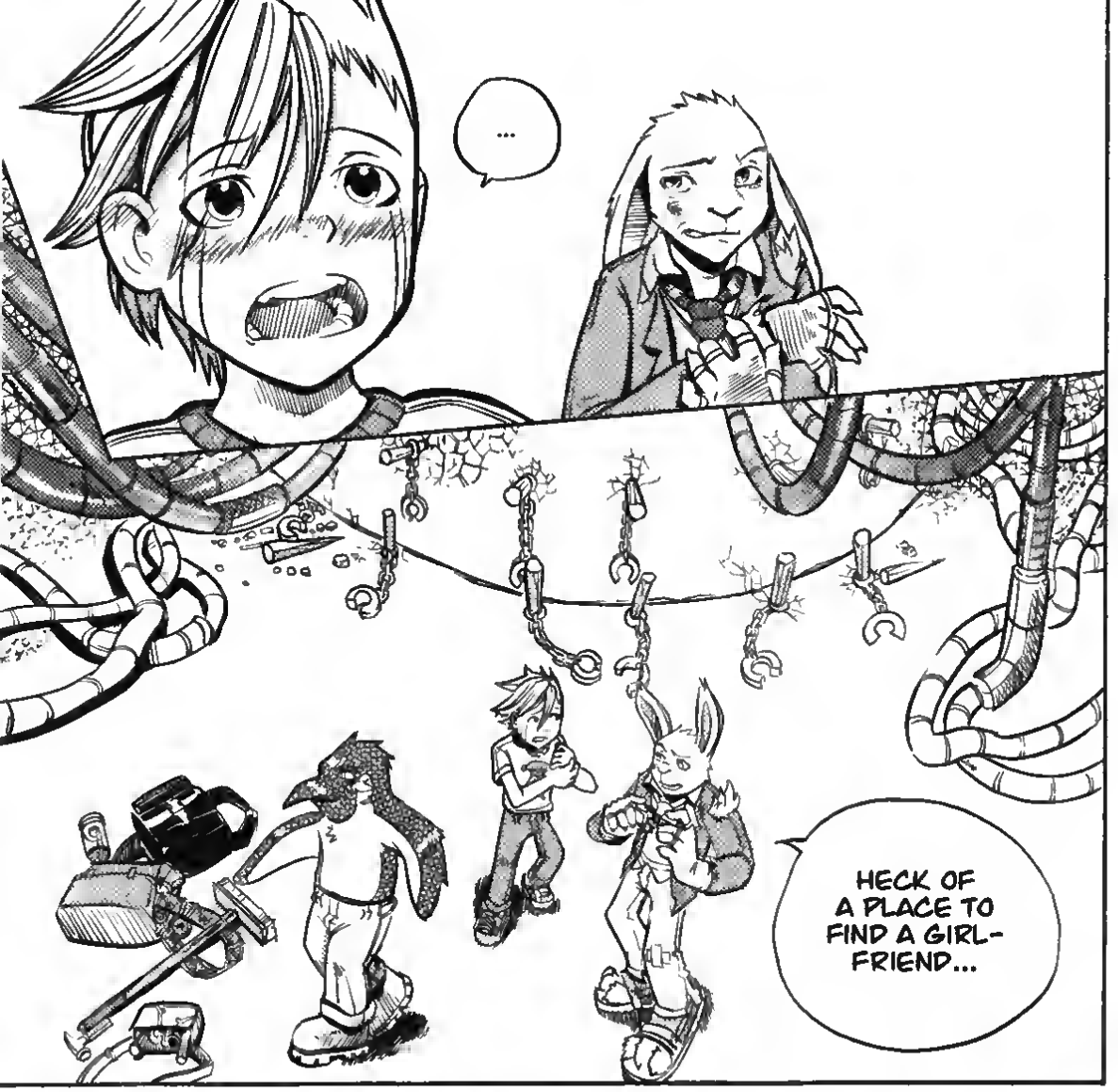
WE'D BETTER LEAVE BEFORE THE CLOUD COMES BACK. THIS FINAL BATTLEGROUND IS NO PLACE FOR US.
TELL ME YOU HAVE A WAY OUT? PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE.

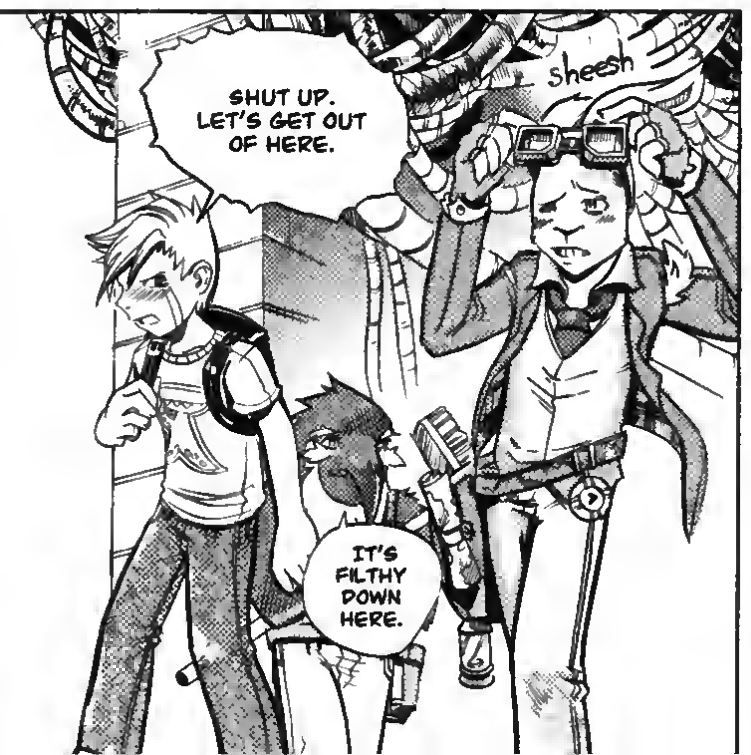
WHOOSH
I HEARD, AND I CAME.
VOOSH
KIK

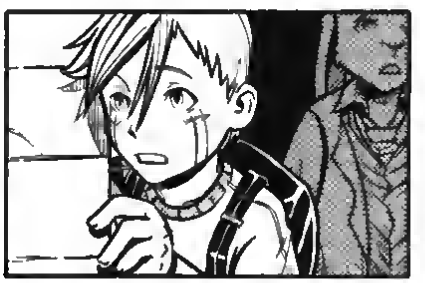
XENAKIS, THE FACTORY IS SURROUNDED. WE SHOULD ESCAPE--
NO! WE FIGHT. THIS WAR IS NOT OVER!
SIR, WE HAVE A LOT OF FRONTLINE CASUALTIES...BUT WE'VE BREACHED THE OUTER CHAMBERS OF THE FACTORY.
GOOD.
KEEP THE OFFENSE STRONG. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS WINNING.
WE'D BETTER LEAVE BEFORE THE CLOUD COMES BACK. THIS FINAL BATTLEGROUND IS NO PLACE FOR US.
TELL ME YOU HAVE A WAY OUT? PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE.

WOOSH
I HEARD, AND I CAME.
VOOSH
KIK

I CANNOT STAY. I AM WEAK FROM BEING CAPTURED... AND FROM BEING SO FAR UNDER-GROUND.
CHK
WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU?
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TRUST ANYONE ANYMORE.
BE STRONG, SAMA.


...
HECK OF A PLACE TO FIND A GIRL-FRIEND...


SHUT UP. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
sheesh
IT'S FILTHY DOWN HERE.



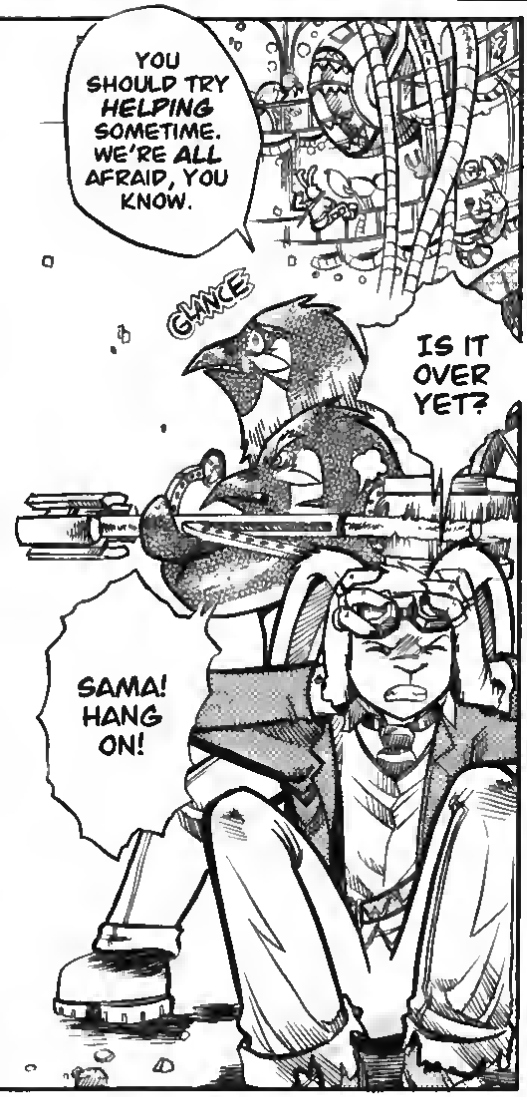
TCH
TCH
TCH
TCH
TCH
TCH
BOOOM
SHUUK
GLOP
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO GO RIGHT INTO THE MIDDLE OF...THIS?

LET'S JUST STAY LOW.
IF WE AVOID THE BIG FIGHTS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.

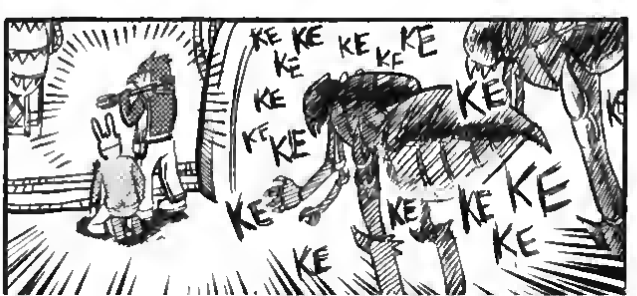
STAB
YOU THINK YOU CAN COME HERE FROM ABOVE...
...AND DESTROY ALL THAT I'VE WORKED FOR?
KPOW

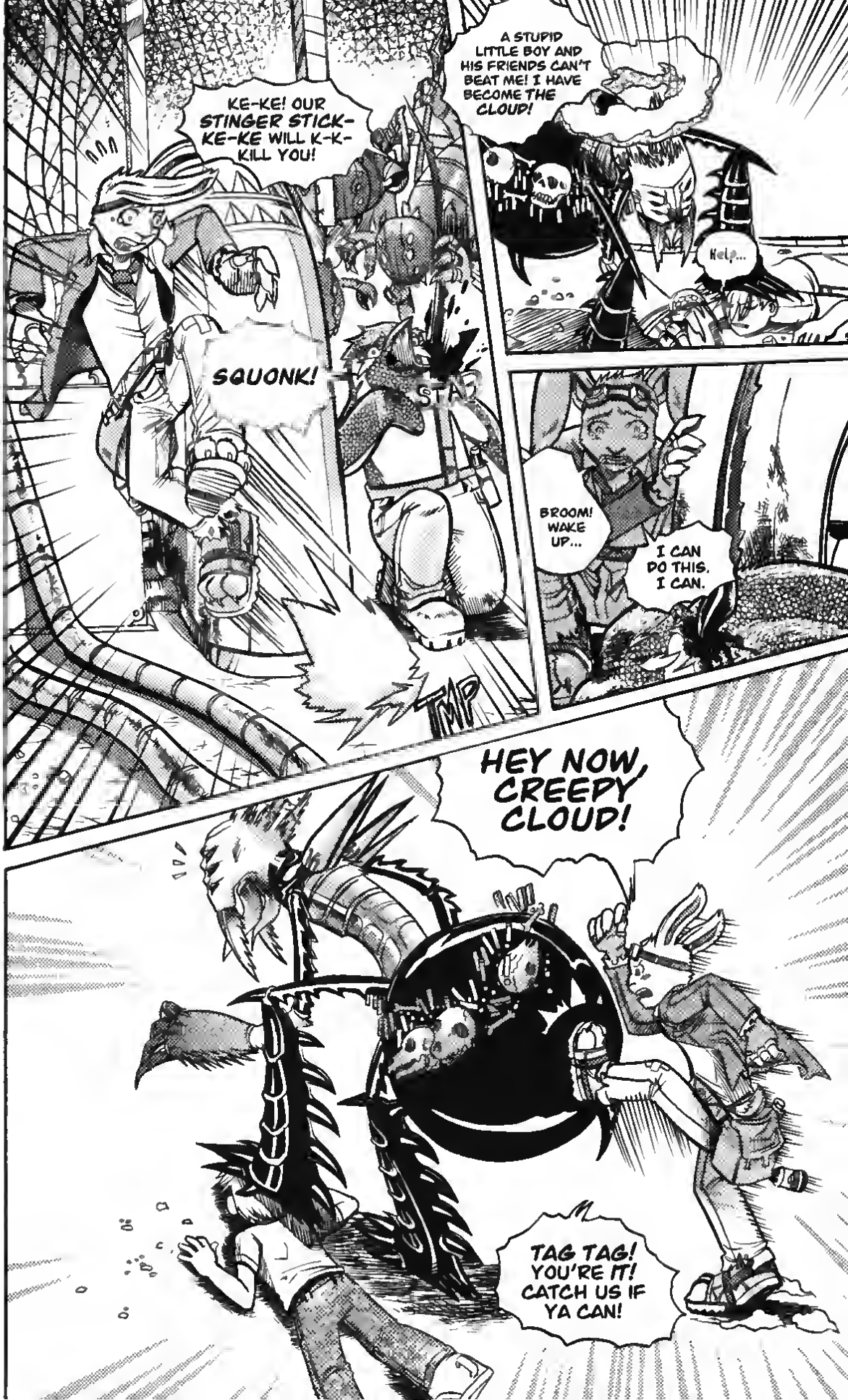
YOU...EVIL... MONSTER...
I WILL DESTROY...
...YOU!
...wiped...
fizzle
YER USING TOO MUCH MAGIC! YER GOING TO GET--

YOU MAY KNOW A LITTLE MAGIC...
...BUT YOU ARE NO MASTER.
STOMP
WAAAAA!


YOU SHOULD TRY HELPING SOMETIME. WE'RE ALL AFRAID, YOU KNOW.
GLANCE
IS IT OVER YET?
SAMA! HANG ON!

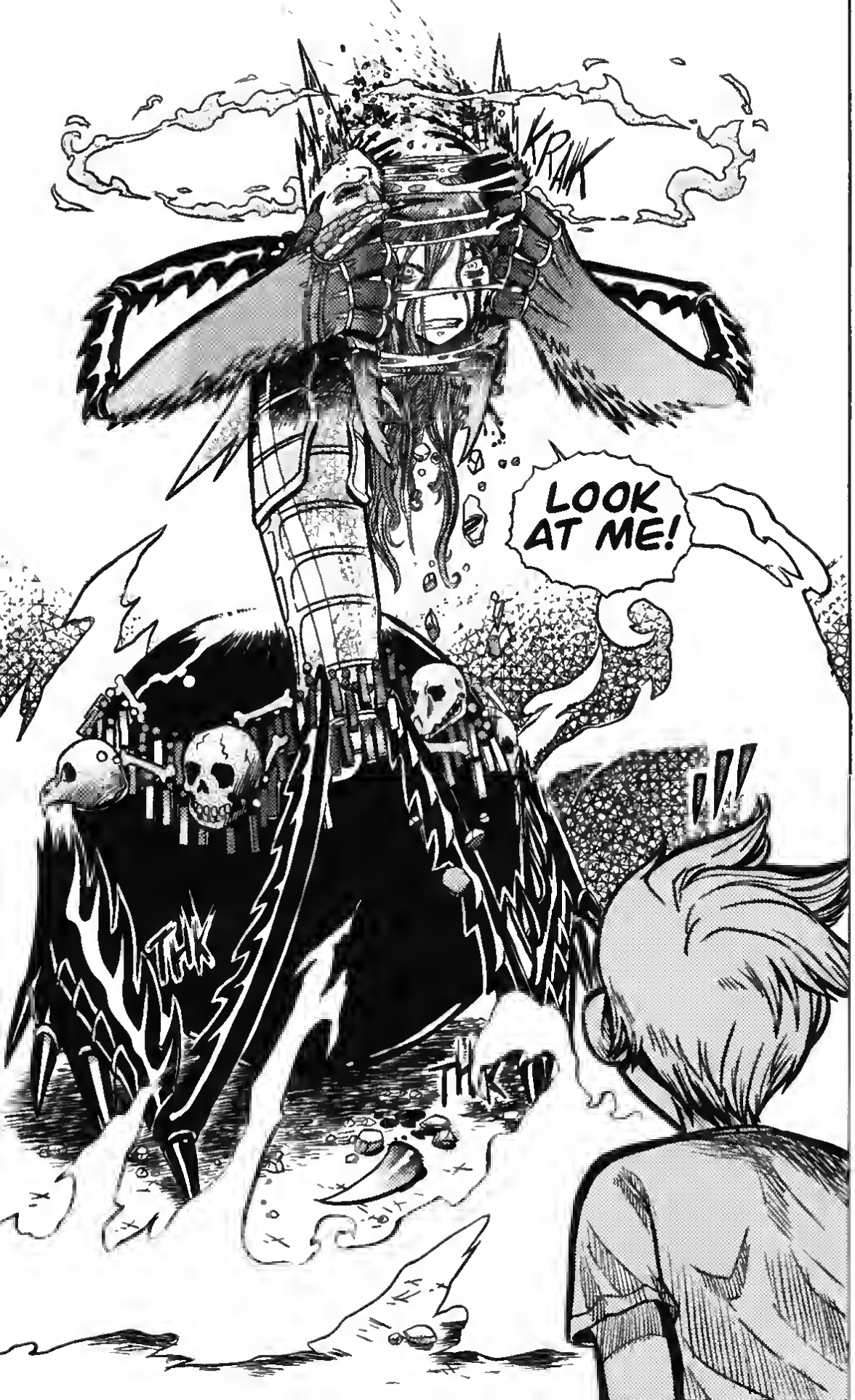
BUT...BUT I DON'T LIKE FIGHTIN'! I DON'T KNOW HOW!
A HERO ISN'T SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT...HE'S SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO HELP.


KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE


A STUPID LITTLE BOY AND HIS FRIENDS CAN'T BEAT ME! I HAVE BECOME THE CLOUD!
Help...
KE-KE! OUR STINGER STICK- KE-KE WILL K-K- KILL YOU!
SQUONK!
STAB
BROOM! WAKE UP...
I CAN DO THIS. I CAN.
TMP
HEY NOW, CREEPY CLOUD!
TAG TAG! YOU'RE IT! CATCH US IF YA CAN!

BLEEEAH!
HOW ABOUT YOU PICK ON ME INSTEAD!
WHAK
HANG IN THERE, BROOM.
BROOM...
I'LL MAKE THAT BUG PAY FOR DOING THIS!
...squonk...

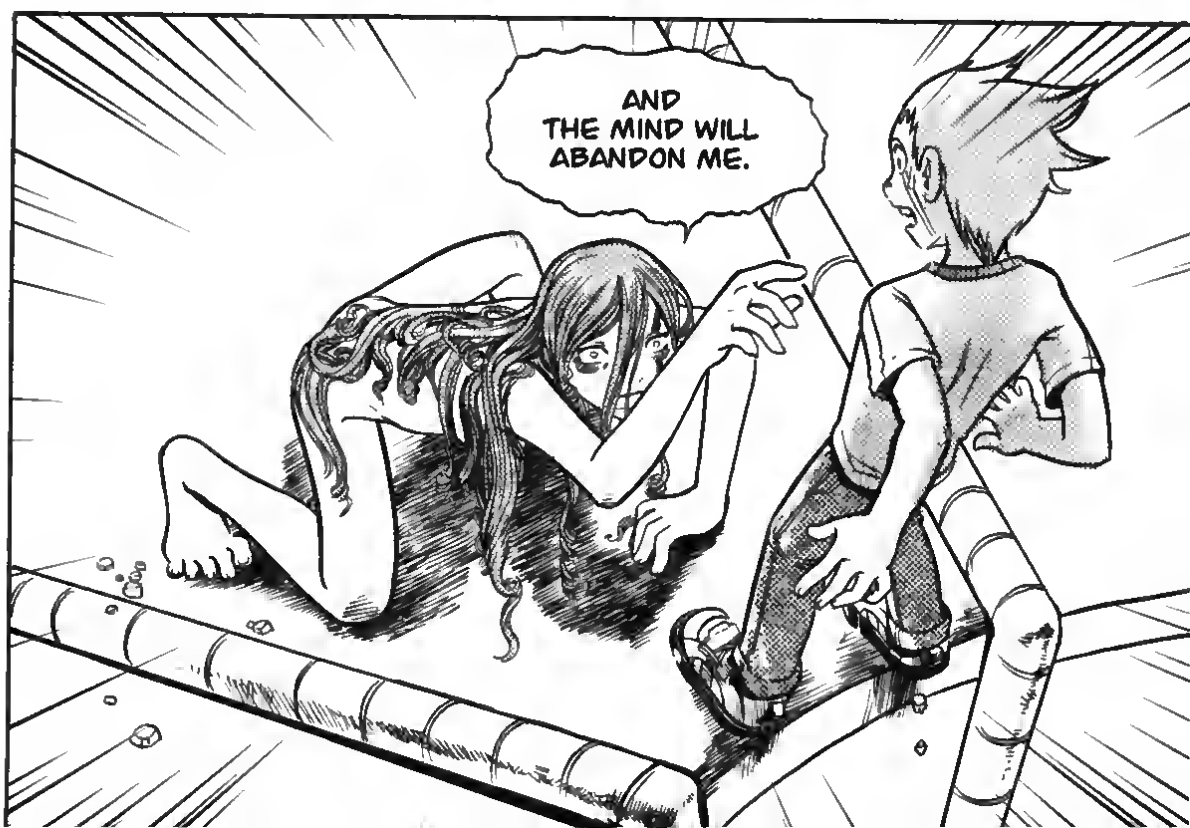
CRACK
DIE!
NO... YOU MUSTN'T CRACK MY... MASK...
SNAP
NO!
SKRATCH SKRATCH
SCRATCH SCRATCH
SKRATCH


KRAK
LOOK AT ME!
!!!
TCHK
THK

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME.
BZZZZZZZ
FLEE, IT'S...IT'S ME!
BZZZ
...REMEMBER?
I KNOW I SAID WE WOULDN'T BE GONE LONG...
BZZZ BZZZZ
...BUT WE WERE SO CLOSE. DON'T LEAVE ME...

YOU...
DROP
YOU DID THIS, SAMA.
THUMP

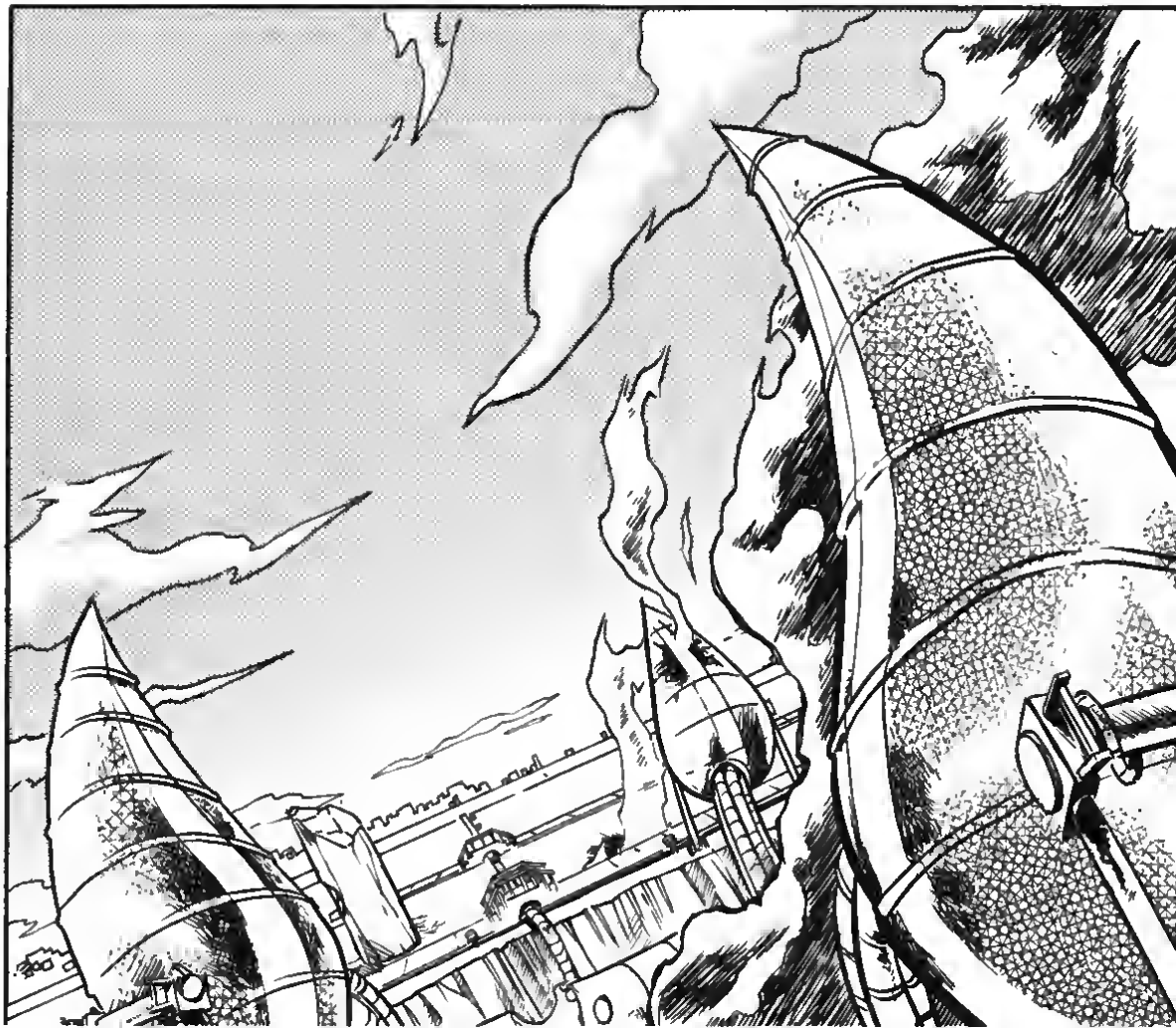
THE INSECTS WON'T FOLLOW ME NOW THAT THEY CAN SEE THE TRUTH...

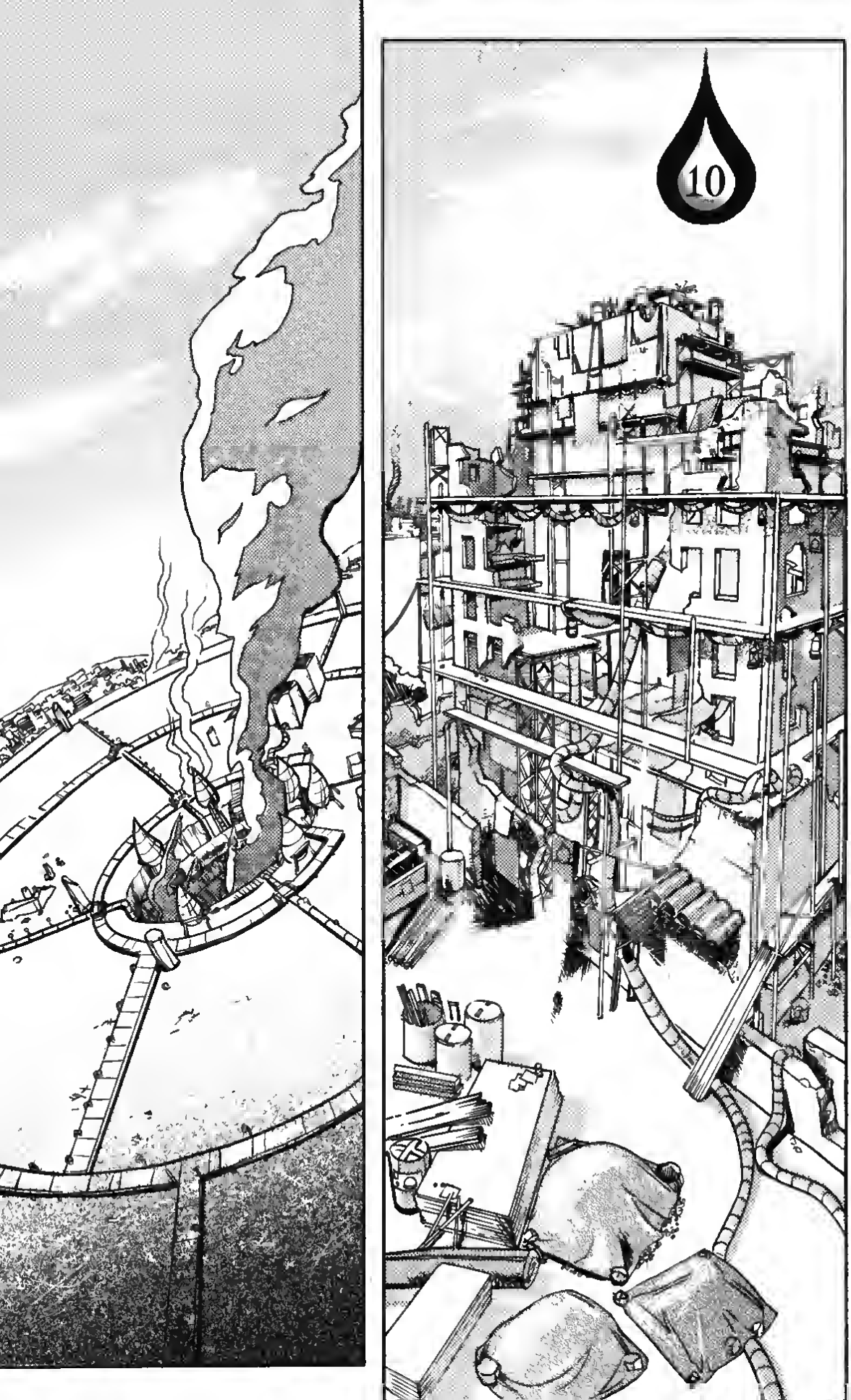

AND THE MIND WILL ABANDON ME.

NO! WAIT!
NO, SAMA.
YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED.
WHY...
WHY WOULD YOU DO ALL THIS?
YOU'RE A GIRL. YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED... BRAINWASHED OR SOMETHING.

AAIIIIIEEEEE!

SHE'S GONE.




10

WELL?
IT'S OVER.

YES! MISSION ACCOM-PLISHED!
WE WON, SIR.
VERY LIMITED FURMEN CASUALTIES... I MEAN, IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS. WELL WORTH IT TO HAVE THE FACTORY BACK.
...

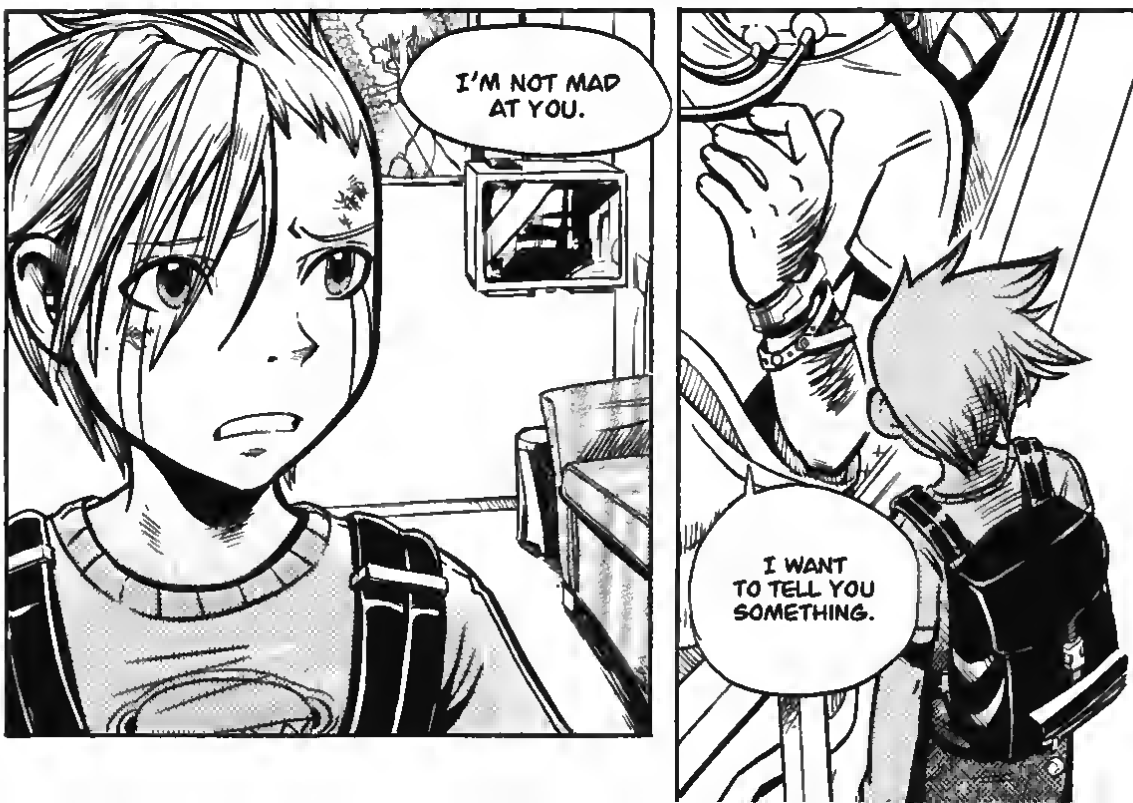
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO END THE WAR! NOT START A HUGE BATTLE!
WAR IS NOT ENDED WITH PEACE. WAR IS ENDED WITH BLOOD AND SACRIFICE.
COME ON! YOU BOYS ARE HEROES! YOU RESCUED MIGHTY. YOU FOUGHT BRAVELY. HECK, YOU EVEN DEFEATED THE CLOUD.
SCOOT
YOU ALL DESERVE SOME MEDALS!
NOTHING MAKES ANY SENSE ANY MORE.
BOY...
...TERROR NEVER MAKES ANY SENSE.
I DON'T WANT A MEDAL. I WANT MY DAD.
YOU PROMISED.
A PROMISE IS A PROMISE, BROTHER VERBAL, NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

SAMA, THE BEST WAY TO HELP YOUR FATHER IS TO GO TO HIM. TELL HIM WHAT YOU NEED TO TELL HIM.
CAN I BRING B.W. WITH ME?
NO, I AM SORRY.
IT'S OKAY, SAMA. THIS IS MY HOME.
B.W.--
THANK YOU. WHEN I WAS FIGHTING THE CLOUD, YOU SAVED ME.
YOU'RE NOT A FRAIDY. YOU'RE A BRAVE RABBIT.

Hug
NOW IS THE TIME.
Goodbye...
SSSHHH
...undertown.

DAD...
IT'S ME.
SAMA...
WHERE ARE
YOU?
I'M RIGHT
HERE.
I'M SORRY
I WENT AWAY,
DAD.
IT'S OKAY...
I'VE BEEN A
LITTLE BUSY.

I LOST HIM.
WHERE'S YOUR TEDDY BEAR?
BUT IT WASN'T MY FAULT... I WAS TRYING... I WAS--
SAMA.


I'M NOT MAD AT YOU.
I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

YOU KNOW, YOU HEAR A LOT OF EXPRESSIONS LIKE "HE HAS A BIG HEART" AND..."DO SOMETHING WITH ALL YOUR HEART"...
THESE AREN'T JUST EXPRESSIONS TO ME. WHEN YOUR HEART ISN'T WORKING, YOU FEEL LIKE NOTHING...LIKE YOU'RE ALREADY GONE.
IT'S OKAY, DADDY. YOU'RE GOING TO BE--

I LOVE YOU, SON.
TURN
IF I DON'T ALWAYS DO A GOOD JOB OF SHOWING IT, WELL...I LOVE YOU. THAT'S IT.
DADDY, I--

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

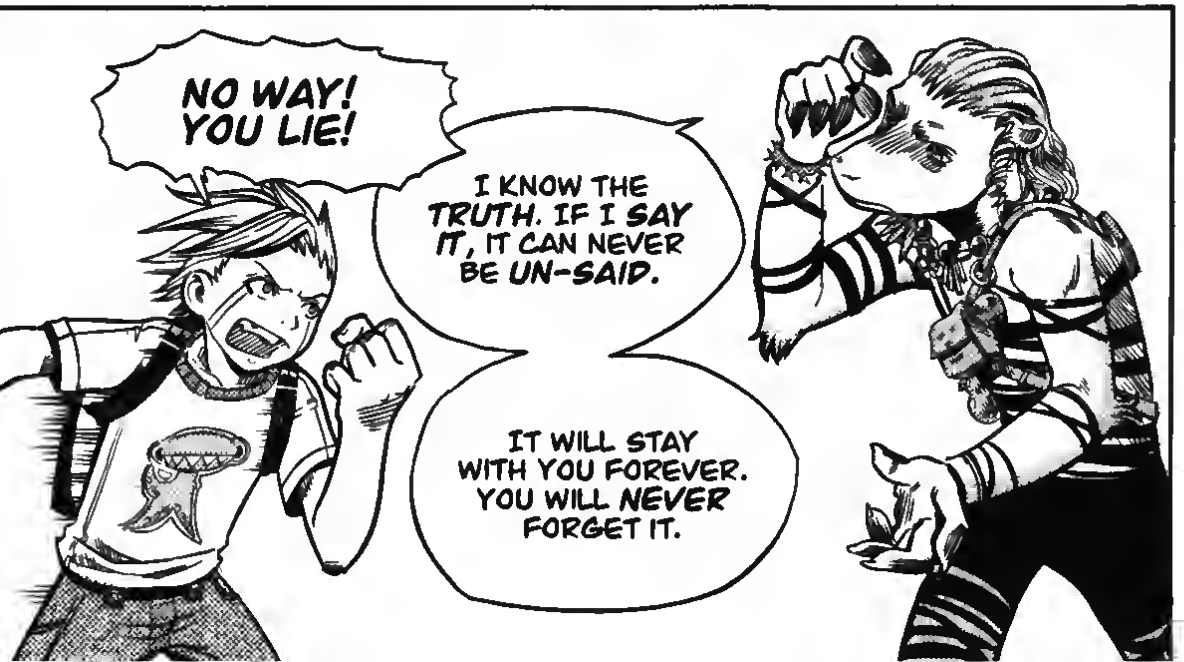
UNDERTOWN?
WHY AM I BACK HERE?

THE RAT RING CAN ONLY OPEN A WINDOW TO A DIFFERENT PLACE, NOT A DOOR. YOU CAN SEE, BUT YOU CANNOT STAY.
MY BROTHER TOLD YOU THIS, DID HE NOT?

BROTHER, DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. I'M A COMMUNICATOR. I COMMUN-I-CATED.
IF THERE WAS A MISUNDER-STANDING--
YOU PEOPLE ARE STUPID.
I'M LEAVING. BROOM, B.W., LET'S GO.
BEFORE I GO, THERE'S ONE THING.
NOBLE, YOU WERE GOING TO TELL ME SOMETHING AT THE BUTTERFLY TREE...
SOMETHING ABOUT THE SUGAR STONE...
...AND ABOUT ME?

THE SUGAR STONE IS MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE. YES, IT CAN HEAL... BUT IT CAN ALSO KILL.
IT HAS GREAT POWER... TOO MUCH POWER.

I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE--I WOULD ONLY USE IT FOR GOOD.
THAT IS NOT WHAT I SEE IN YOUR FUTURE, SAMA.
DARK THINGS, I SEE.


NO WAY! YOU LIE!
I KNOW THE TRUTH. IF I SAY IT, IT CAN NEVER BE UN-SAID.
IT WILL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER. YOU WILL NEVER FORGET IT.

TELL ME!
ONE DAY YOU WILL LEAVE UNDERTOWN.
AND YES, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR FATHER.
BUT...
FOR YOUR FATHER TO LIVE, SOMEONE ELSE HAS TO DIE.

To Be Continued...

EDDIE IS MISSING, JOEY P.P.'S A TRAITOR, AND BROOM IS OUT OF COMMISSION.
CAN SAMA'S SEARCH FOR THE SUGAR STONE CONTINUE?

THE CONFLICT IN UNDERTOWN BECOMES MORE DANGEROUS AS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CLOUD FORCES THE INSECT INSURGENTS INTO CIVIL WAR.
WHO WILL EMERGE AS THE LEADER?

THE FURMEN MAY HAVE CAPTURED THE SUGAR FACTORY,
BUT WHAT IS MIGHTY AND VERBAL'S SECRET AGENDA?

WITH ALL THIS TROUBLE BREWING, NEW MYSTERIES DEVELOP...

WHO IS SENDING OUT THE DISTRESS SIGNAL
THAT THE LIZARD BOYS FIRST DISCOVER?

WHY IS SAMA HAVING DISTURBING DREAMLIKE VISIONS?
WHAT IS HIS MOTHER TRYING TO TELL HIM?

AND WHAT IS THE ROSETTA BOX?
WILL IT LEAD TO THE SUGAR STONE...OR IS IT ANOTHER TRAP?

FIND OUT IN *UNDERTOWN* BOOK 2!

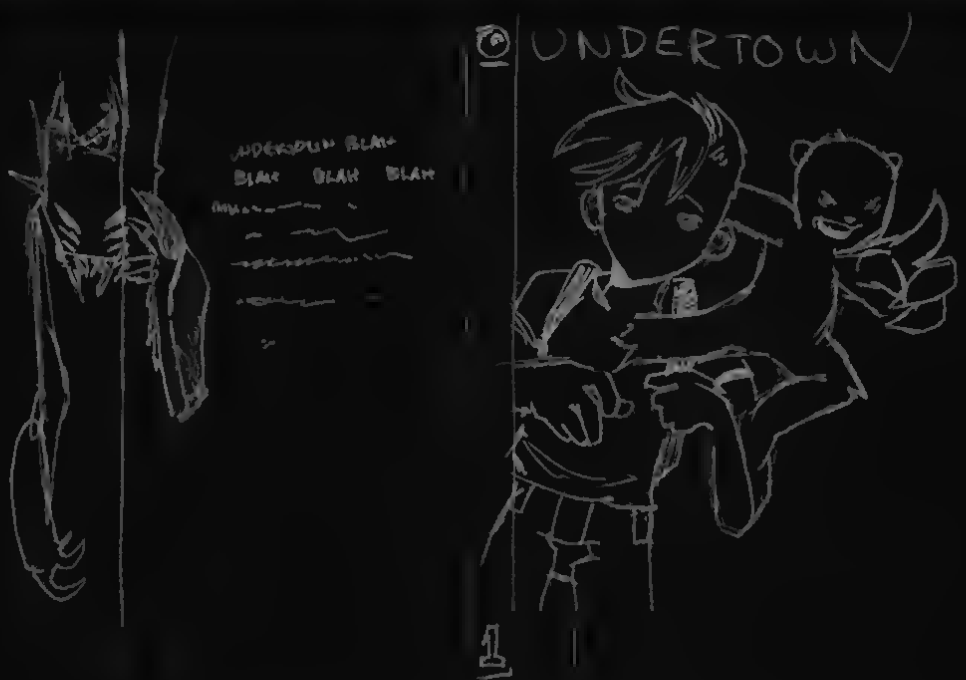
UNDERTOWN

CONCEPT SKETCHES & ART GALLERY

HELLO, DEAR READERS. I HOPE YOU WERE ENTERTAINED BY THE FIRST VOLUME OF *UNDERTOWN!* ARCANE SCRIBE JIM PASCOE AND AMIABLE ARTIST JAKE MYLER SPRINKLED MAGIC ON EVERY SINGLE PAGE OF THIS BOOK. BUT THAT'S NOT SURPRISING--A WAKE OF WIZARDRY HAS FOLLOWED *UNDERTOWN* SINCE THE VERY EARLY STAGES OF ITS CREATION.

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES, YOU WILL SEE SOME AMAZING CONCEPT SKETCHES AND PAINTINGS THAT SPRUNG FROM THE FERTILE MINDS OF PASCOE AND MYLER. AND, AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, YOU'LL ALSO BE TREATED TO SOME GORGEOUS COLOR ART! MY FAVORITE PIECE IS OF THE BAND "THE UNDERTONES." YUP. YOU READ THAT RIGHT. TURN THE PAGES TO SEE WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! ENJOY!

- PAUL MORRISEY, EDITOR



THIS IS ONE OF JAKE'S COVER SKETCHES. WE KEPT THE WRAPAROUND ASPECT OF THE COVER, WITH SAMA AND EDDIE ON THE FRONT AND THE CLOUD ON THE BACK.

HERE'S AN ALTERNATE
UNDERTOWN COVER...

SAMA & EDDIE

JAKE'S EARLIEST DESIGNS OF SAMA AND EDDIE WERE ABSOLUTELY PERFECT! HERE'S A LITTLE FUN FACT: JAKE MYLER LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE SAMA...
!
Die!

B.W.
FIRST DESIGN

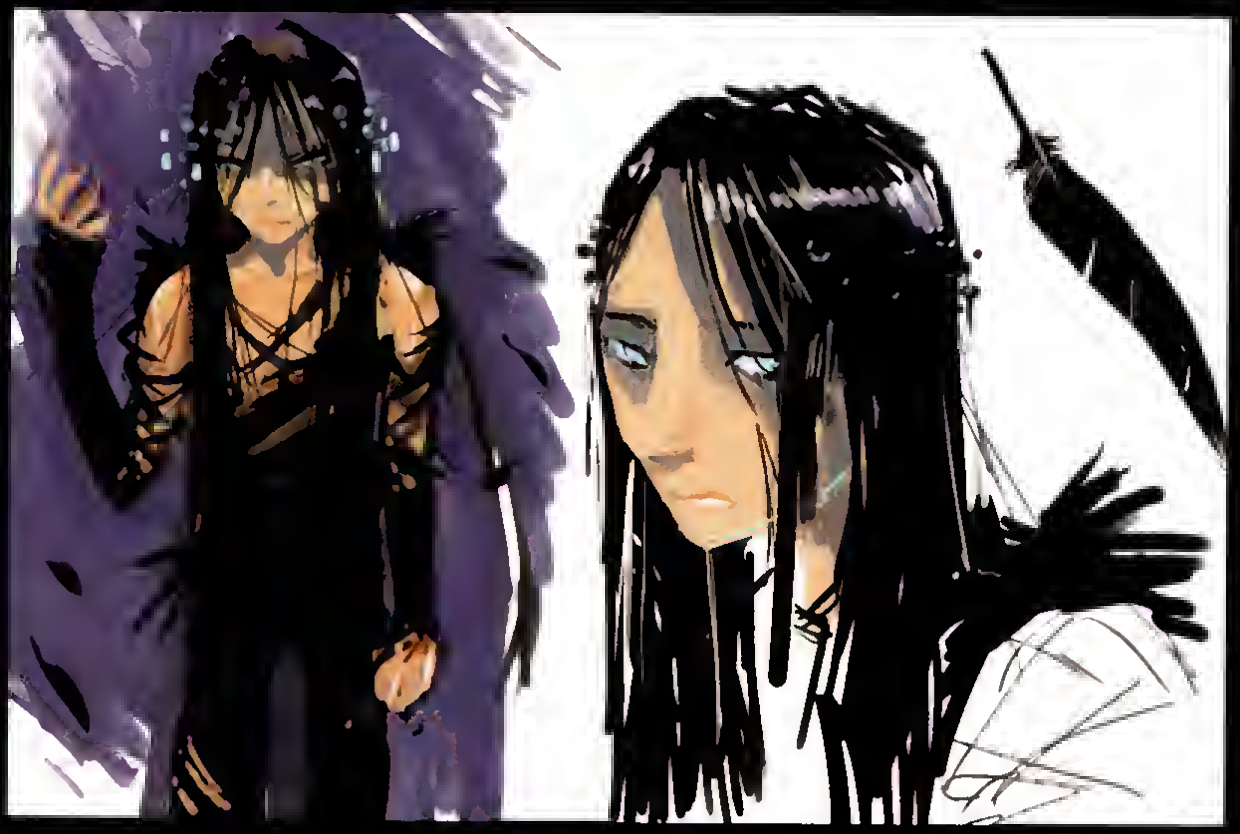
AS B.W.'S DESIGNS EVOLVED, HE BECAME LESS CONFIDENT AND MORE TIMID...YET THE FINAL VERSION OF B.W. COMES EQUIPPED WITH GOGGLES, MAPS AND A COMPAS, SUGGESING THAT B.W. YEARNS TO BE A BUNNY OF ACTION.

B.W.
SECOND DESIGN

B.W.
FIRST DESIGN

B.W.
FINAL DESIGN

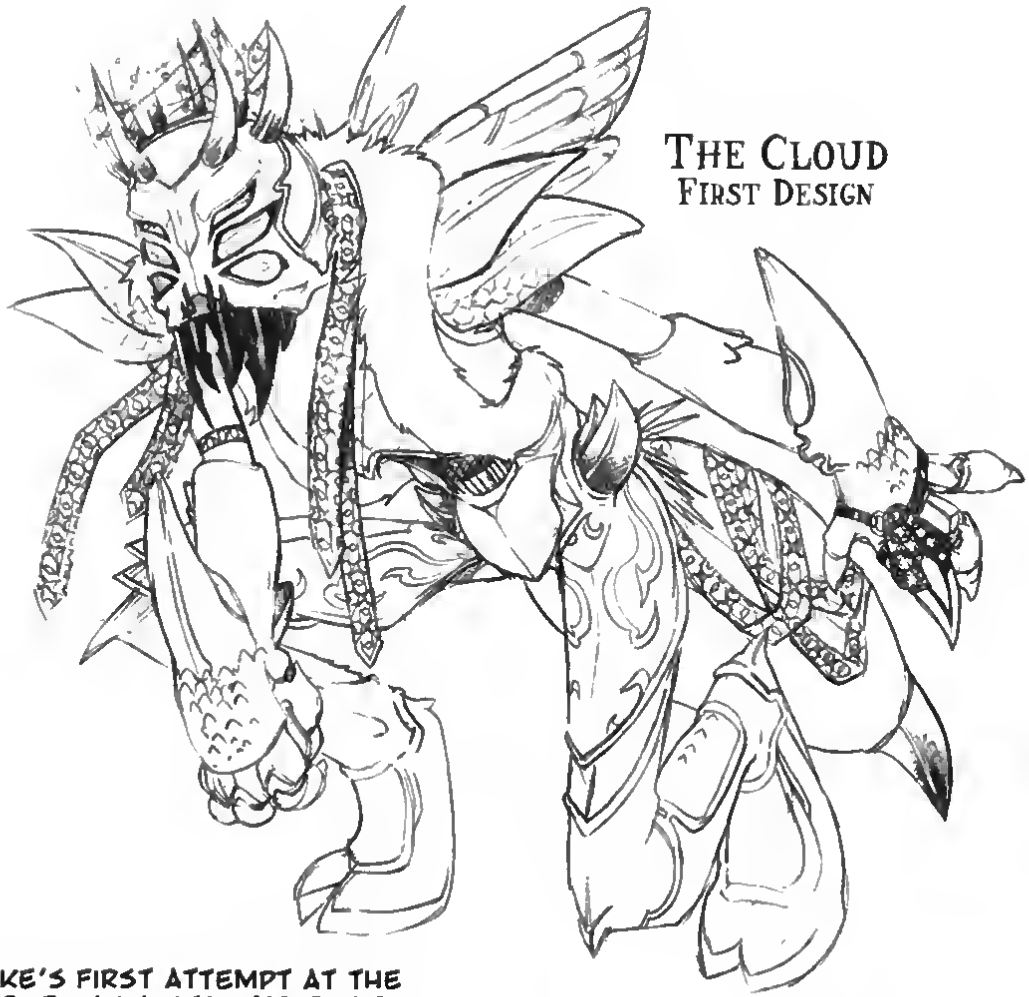
JOEY P.P. WASN'T ALWAYS SO PRICKLY! HE LOOKS MUCH KINDER-- AND CERTAINLY LESS SHIFTY-- IN HIS FIRST SKETCHES.
JOEY P.P.
FIRST DESIGN
JOEY P.P.
FINAL DESIGN



A dead end for two racoons? No. their tale has not yet been told. How do they fit into Sama's story? Write to TOKYOPOP with YOUR idea!

YT

A PORTENTOUS POSTER--
AND A LIFELESS EDDIE--
IN SAMA'S BEDROOM...



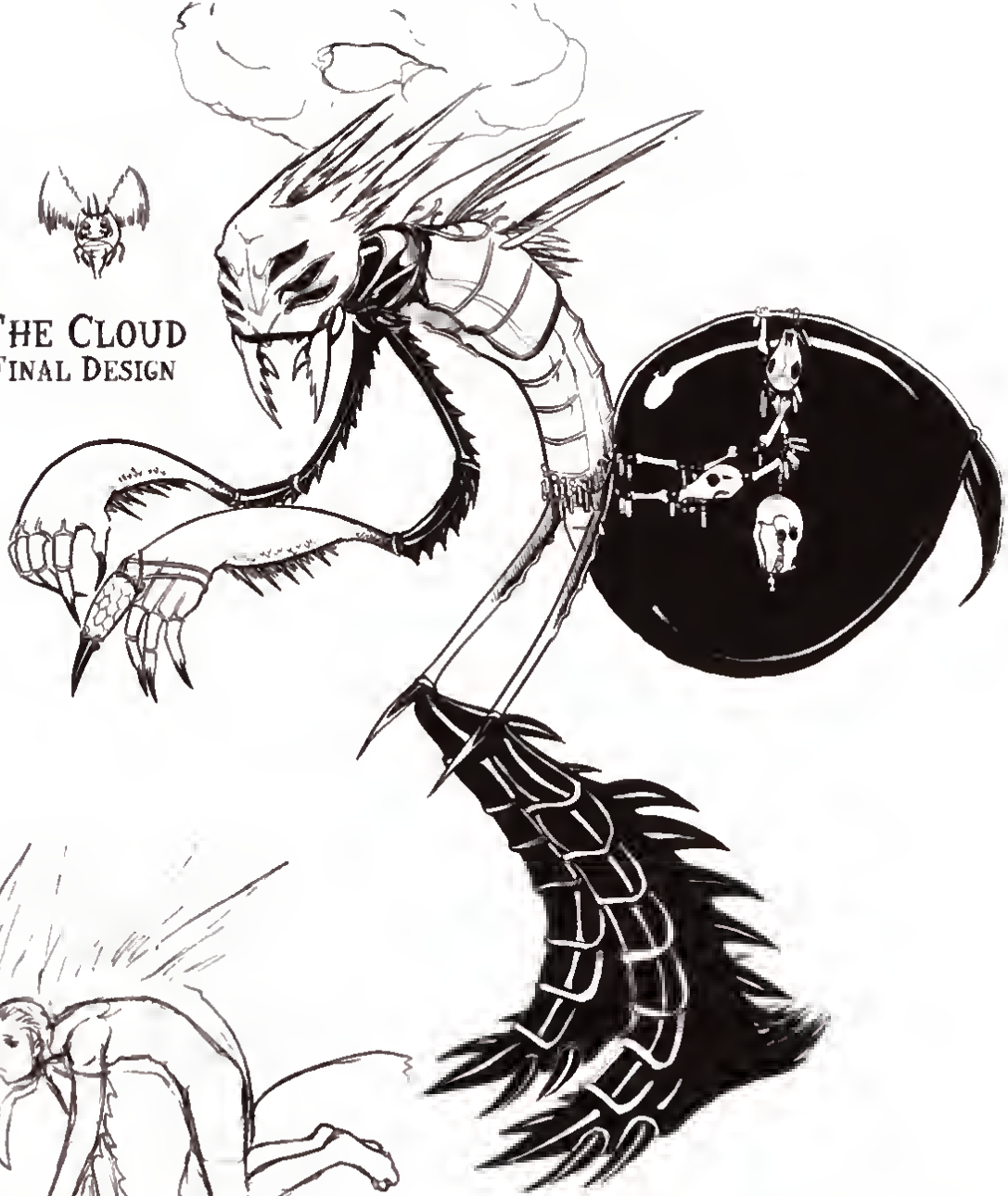
THE CLOUD
FIRST DESIGN

JAKE'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT THE CLOUD HAS A STRIKING DESIGN, BUT WE CONCLUDED THAT IT LOOKED TOO MUCH LIKE A SUIT. WE WANTED THE REVELATION OF THE CLOUD'S SECRET IDENTITY TO BE AS SHOCKING AS POSSIBLE, SO WE ULTIMATELY WENT WITH A MORE INSECT-LIKE DESIGN, COMPLETE WITH SPIDERY LIMBS. WHERE'S THE CLOUD'S SIGNATURE "CLOUD HALO," YOU ASK? WELL, INITIALLY THIS CHARACTER WAS KNOWN AS "THE RAIN CLOUD QUEEN." WHEN WE SHORTENED IT TO THE CLOUD, JIM AND JAKE BRILLIANTLY DECIDED TO GIVE HER A CLOUDY, PAIN-INDUCING HALO THAT CONSTANTLY FLOATS ABOVE HER HEAD...

THERE'S A LOT TO LIKE ABOUT THESE TWO EARLY DESIGNS. FOR INSTANCE, THE COBWEBBED "CROWN" AND THE FINGER JEWELRY WERE NICE VISUAL TOUCHES THAT WERE RETAINED IN THE CLOUD'S FINAL DESIGN.

THE CLOUD
SECOND DESIGN

THE CLOUD
FINAL DESIGN



THE CLOUD
GIRL INSIDE

COMPLETE WITH HER SIDEKICK, FLEE, AND HER OMINOUS HALO, HERE'S THE CLOUD'S STRIKING FINAL DESIGN. JAKE ADDED THE FURMEN SKULLS TO THE CLOUD'S BULBOUS BOTTOM, GIVING HER SOME VISUAL FLAIR--AND AN UNTOLD BACKSTORY FULL OF MENACE!

WITH SUCH AN INSECTOID DESIGN, WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE A HUMAN GIRL COULD PLAUSIBLY FIT INSIDE THE CLOUD SUIT. COULD THIS MYSTERY GIRL HAVE USED INSECT MAGIC TO CONTROL THE CLOUD'S LEGS AND HANDS?

HERE'S IGGY! EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE LIZARD BOY! JAKE REALLY DID AN AMAZING JOB DESIGNING THIS CHARACTER-- I ESPECIALLY LIKE THE JEWEL ON IGGY'S FOREHEAD.
IGGY

WRITER JIM PASCOE PROVIDES A PHOTO REFERENCE FOR ARTIST JAKE MYLER, DEMONSTRATING THE PROPER WAY TO SUMMON MAGIC IN UNDERTOWN.

JIM BOWS IN REVERENCE, PRESUMABLY TO AN OFF-SCREEN CLOUD, SHOWING EVERYONE HOW TO GIVE A PROPER INSECT SALUTE. PRAISE THE HIVE!

SEND US YOUR *UNDERTOWN* FAN ART AND LETTERS!

IF YOU PUT THEM UNDER YOUR BED AND COUNT DOWN FROM 10, THEY MIGHT JUST END UP IN A FUTURE VOLUME! ALSO, WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A CATCHY NAME FOR OUR *UNDERTOWN* FAN ART SECTION. ANY IDEAS?

HOW TO SUBMIT:

1) SEND YOUR WORK VIA REGULAR MAIL (NOT E-MAIL) TO:

"UNDERTOWN FAN MAIL"
C/O TOKYOPOP
5900 WILSHIRE BLVD.
SUITE 2000
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

2) FAN ART MAY BE SUBMITTED IN BLACK AND WHITE OR IN COLOR, BUT COLOR FAN ART MAY BE RENDERED IN BLACK AND WHITE AT OUR DISCRETION. ALL FAN ART MUST BE NO LARGER THAN 8.5" BY 11". (AND TRY NOT TO FOLD IT TOO MANY TIMES!)

3) YOU CAN SEND US EITHER ORIGINALS OR PHOTOCOPIES BY REGULAR MAIL, BUT NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE RETURNED.

4) PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, AGE, ADDRESS AND E-MAIL. IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN INCLUDE A "PEN-NAME"... BUT YOU STILL MUST GIVE US YOUR REAL EARTHLY NAME, TOO.

5) ANYTHING YOU SEND TO US BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF TOKYOPOP INC. WE WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRINT, REPRODUCE, DISTRIBUTE, OR MODIFY THE ARTWORK FOR USE IN ANY OF OUR PRODUCTS, ON OUR WEB SITE, AND IN OUR PUBLICITY AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS, ROYALTY-FREE AND FOREVER.

6) IMPORTANT: IF YOU ARE UNDER 18, WE WILL NEED A WRITTEN PARENTAL PERMISSION IN ORDER TO USE YOUR SUBMISSION. YOUR PARENT SHOULD SIGN AND DATE THE PERMISSION ON THE BACK OF YOUR SUBMISSION. THE PERMISSION CAN BE A VERY SIMPLE STATEMENT LIKE: "I AM SAMA'S PARENT. I HAVE READ AND AGREED TO THE TERMS OF TOKYOPOP'S FAN SUBMISSION POLICY." PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE PERMISSION MUST BE ON THE BACK OF YOUR SUBMISSION OR IT CANNOT BE USED.

Coming November 2007!

The Garthim Wars

Story by Barbara Randall Kesel
Art by Heidi Arnhold & Max Kim

Spun from the creative mind of Jim Henson, The Dark Crystal was a landmark film that was visionary in its scope and unparalleled in its execution. It brought to life a world inhabited entirely by creatures, introduced us to characters that have become iconic, and told a story that redefined the epic fantasy adventure. Now, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the film, we return once again to the world of Gelflings, Mystics and Skekses in Jim Henson's Legends of the Dark Crystal, an exciting new original manga series from TOKYOPOP and the Jim Henson Company.

Set before the events of the film, this series of graphic novels tells the story of Lahr and Neffi, two Gelflings fighting an impossible battle for their survival against the villainous Skekses, led by the ruthless Emperor SkekSo. In this exclusive preview, we are taken into the depths of the Crystal Castle, as we witness a heated exchange between the Skeksis Emperor and his General. However, it seems we may not be the only ones listening in...

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CHIRRUP
IT'S NOT TRUE!
THERE IS NO DWINDLING OF GELFLING ESSENCE!
THE SUPPLY IS VAST AND CONSTANT!
THE GELFLINGS HAVE NO DEFENSE! NOT AGAINST THE LOYAL GARTHIM!
MORE ARE BEING ROUNDED UP AS WE SPEAK!
EMPEROR SKEKSO. MAY YOUR SPINES STAY SHARP TILL THE END OF TIME. YOU HAVE NO CAUSE TO FEAR A SHORTAGE!
SHPLURP
FRESH ESSENCE IS BEING EXTRACTED FROM THE MOST RECENT ACQUISITIONS RIGHT NOW.
SKRAW-KAW!
BRRRUK!
YOUR ETERNAL YOUTH AND GRACIOUS LEADERSHIP WILL CONTINUE INFINITELY!
STOP SPEWING STEAM UP MY BEAK, GENERAL SKEKVAR. MY SOURCES SAY OTHERWISE.

THOSE REPORTS ARE FALSE!
THE JEALOUS WORDS OF MY INFERIORS!
I AM WELL AWARE THAT THE COLLECTOR HAS BEEN BENDING YOUR EAR WITH WILD THEORIES.
BUT I HAVE THE SITUATION WELL UNDER CONTROL.
SO IT SEEMS.
THERE IS A SATISFACTION TO BEING AWARE OF OPPORTUNITY, GENERAL...

...AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IT!
AAAAH!
FORCE CANNOT ALWAYS GAIN YOU WHAT YOU WANT.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN STEALTH AND SKILL TRIUMPH!
WITH THE GREATER SATISFACTION OF SAVORING THE RESULT.

YOU ARE OFTEN TOO QUICK TO ATTACK! ENJOY A LITTLE!
A SMALL SNACK-
ACK!
A-A-A-ACK!
KKKKK!
KA--!
SIRE!

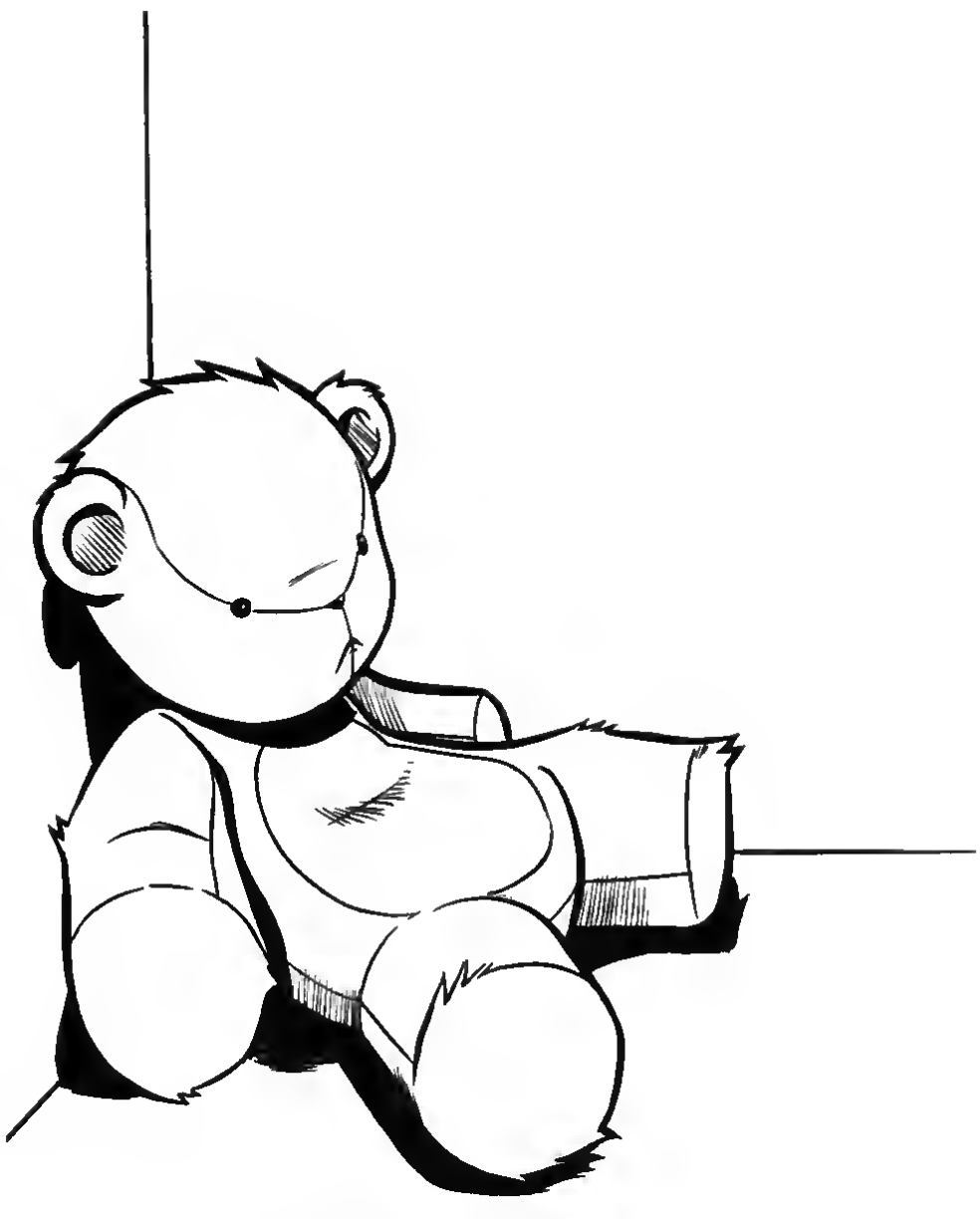
NOT YET!
MY PROFOUND APOLOGIES, YOUR GREATNESS!
I DIDN'T MEAN--!
OF COURSE NOT! YOU WEREN'T THINKING OF THE THRONE FOR YOURSELF!
YOU ARE LOYAL TO YOUR EMPEROR, HMMM?

EMPEROR SKEKSO!
HOW COULD YOU DOUBT ME? I WAS MERELY KEEPING THE SCEPTER OF OFFICE FROM HARM!
WHILE THE EMPEROR CHOKED.
I HAVE MADE A GRIEVOUS ERROR, YOUR HIGHNESS.
THERE ARE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS MY HORROR.
I GIVE YOU MY WEAPON. DO WITH IT AS YOU WISH.
PUT IT AWAY, GENERAL!
IT IS FORGOTTEN!
I HAVE NO WISH TO LOSE YOUR VERY VALUABLE SERVICES.

BUT IF SKEKLACH REQUESTS YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH HIS COLLECTING, I WILL EXPECT YOUR COOPERATION.
YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC COOPERATION.
OF... COURSE!
GOOD. I'M GLAD WE'VE SMOOTHED THIS CONFLICT BETWEEN US
IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO KNOW WHERE MY SUBJECTS STAND.
HMMMM...

A LITTLE DISAGREEMENT, HMMMM?
HMMMMM
DISCORD IS GOOD.
HAVING SECRETS IS ALSO GOOD, HMMMM?
KNOWING WHEN TO USE THEM...
HMMMMMM

HMMMMMM
THAT'S A GIFT!
HISSSS
GRRRCK
HMMMMMM



JIM PASCOE

At various times in his childhood, Jim Pascoe believed he was an alien, a lizard, a psychic, and a king. Soon he realized that he was really a storyteller. He grew up to write many things. He created the Emmy® Award winning interactive card game for Disney's *JETIX Cards Live!* and has written comics and books featuring well-known characters such as Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Kim Possible, and Hellboy. *UNDERTOWN* is his most personal story to date, because in 2005, on the day after Christmas, his father was sent to the hospital for a heart transplant. That his dad is alive to read this manga is one of the happiest developments of his life. Jim Pascoe no longer believes he is an alien; he does believe in miracles.

JAKE MYLER

Growing up in the isolation of the redwoods of Northern California, Jake Myler loved to read and create comics to ease the pain and fear caused by the many packs of roving wild dogs that would often attack without warning. But comics were forgotten for years, until after graduating with a degree in animation from Woodbury University. Then he realized that creating comics was his true dream all along! Jake has also illustrated issues of Phantom Rock Entertainment's *Dark Butterfly* series, issues of Ta-Su's *Tasumono* series, and created hundreds of *The Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars* collector cards for Topps.

Manga
Fantasy/Drama
US $9.99
CAN $12.50
UK £6.99

UNDERTOWN

Sama is so sad that tears have literally stained his cheeks. His father has fallen gravely ill...and doctors only give him a month to live. With nowhere to turn, Sama grabs his teddy bear and crawls under his bed...magically entering a portal to a dark and mysterious realm called Undertown! Sama searches for the Sugar Stone: a "secret something" that might be able to heal his dad. But The Cloud—the wicked leader of the Insect Insurgents—hunts for the Stone, as well...

From Jim Pascoe, creator of Emmy® Award winning *JETIX Cards Live!*, and sensational artist Jake Myler, comes an epic voyage into the heart of a strange and beautiful world.

Jim Henson's Legends of The Dark Crystal: The Garthim Wars

Exclusive preview inside!

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